Daily Report

Latin America

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Monday
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FBIS-LAT-92-230 *30 November 1992*

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NOTICE TO DAILY REPORT READERS: Effective 30 November, and until further notice, the DAILY REPORT will cease publishing the "Front Page" feature.

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

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Banana Importer Invites Windward Islands To Invest

FL2811184392 Bridgetown CANA in English 1611 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, Nov 28, CANA—A senior official of the British shipping firm, Geest Industries Ltd., has described as "folly" any attempt by the Windward Islands to get involved in shipping bananas to Europe for sale.

"It would be absolutely folly," David Sugden, Geest's chief executive, told reporters here Friday. "There is, I believe, little point in owning a quarter of the ship ... The logical way to deal with that desire ... Is indeed for the Windward Islands to be investors in Geest," he added.

Opposition politicians in the Windward Islands have been calling for a renegotiation of the existing contract with Geest Industries, the buyers of Windward Islands fruit, contending that the islands—Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines—should get involved in the commercial aspect of the industry. Sugden said the Windward Islands governments had asked the British multi- national firm to create a mechanism for investment in Geest which the company welcomed.

"We have put together unprecedented arrangements in order to be able to issue options to buy shares in Geest. Those options would be granted over the next few years and will be linked to the tonnage exported by each of the islands," he said. "At the moment it is not clear who the governments would like us to issue those options to ... That is not a matter for Geest, it is a matter for the people of the Windward Islands to decide. We await their decision ..," added Sugden. Sugden, who held talks with Windward Islands leaders Thursday on the future of the banana industry, would not divulge the outcome, but it is known that the discussions centred on plans for the best arrangement for the marketing of bananas.

"We realise that the whole thing has to be restructured. It is a completely new ball game, we have put certain new proposals to the associations and they have to give us a response to it," St. Lucia's Prime Minister John Compton told reporters Thursday after the talks.

Sudgen defended his company's decision to buy banana holdings in Costa Rica, and beef up its presence in various European ports, noting that it was part of Geest's efforts to ensure that it was able to compete effectively in the market, after Europe moves to implement a single market in 1993.

"Through the combination of these investments and arrangments, we are now able to market bananas to 85 percent of the entire population of the European economic community. We have entire flexibility to quickly market Windward Islands bananas in which ever market is the most effective and most profitable for the Windward Islands growers," he added. The Geest official also held out hope for a positive outcome of the current negotiations for continued preferential treatment for Caribbean bananas in Europe after 1992.

"We have to be aware that we are dealing with politics here and political brinkmanship is quite normal in this world and therefore, at some point when the opposing forces are finished staring at each other and one of them has finally blinked, I am confident we will have some sort of structure in the European market, and whatever that structure is, Geest will be there to do a first-class job for the Windward Islands," Sugden said.

IDB Compares Caribbean, Latin, North American Growth

FL2710134692 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 27 Oct 92

[Text] The Inter-American Development [IDB] Bank, comprising 44 countries, has released its annual review of social and economic progress in the Caribbean and Latin American regions. The IDB's report says the developing countries in the Western Hemisphere will see a 3.2-percent growth rate this year, which is better than the 2-percent growth rate of the industrialized countries of North America and Europe.

The best performing countries in Latin America were Venezuela and Panama, where growth exceeded 9 percent. The Caribbean region itself actually registered a decline in growth due to the slowdown in tourism and the demand for merchandise exports.

Cuba

Reportage on Secretary Carlos Lage Visit to PRC

Lage Delivers Castro Greetings to Li Peng

FL2411201892 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 24 Nov 92

[Text] Today in Beijing, PRC Premier Li Peng received greetings from Cuban President Fidel Castro. The message was given to him by Carlos Lage, the secretary of the executive committee of the Council of Ministers. During their meeting, Lage expressed his satisfaction at bilateral relations as a whole and stated that new ways to increase these relations will be sought.

Lage Discusses UN Resolution Victory

FL2611003792 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 2320 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Text] In Beijing, Carlos Lage Davila, the secretary of the Executive Committee of the Cuban Council of Ministers, has affirmed during an official visit to China that the UN approval of a condemnation of the U.S. embargo against Cuba is a heavy moral blow for Washington. Lage emphasized that this UN decision is a victory for Cubans and further proof of how illegal, unjust, and criminal the economic embargo is.

Carlos Lage pointed out that Cuba will fight against the strengthening of the embargo, intensified by Washington's issuing of the Torricelli Law, which among other things, prohibits subsidiaries of U.S. companies in third countries from trading with Cuba.

Lage Stresses Increase in Ties With PRC

FL2511203992 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Text] Shortly before concluding a four-day visit to Beijing, Carlos Lage, secretary of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers of Cuba, today highlighted the substantial increase that has occurred in the relations between his country and China. Upon beginning a tour through various Chinese provinces accompanied by the official delegation and Ambassador Jose A. Guerra Menchero, Lage met with journalists, to whom he stressed his satisfaction with the results of his visit. Lage, who is also a member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba, said this step is part of the contacts taking place between Cuba and China with a view to reinforcing their traditional bilateral relations of friendship, cooperation, and trade.

Among the results of his visit, Lage mentioned a mutual examination of 1992 trade and a discussion of the guidelines that will govern the flow of trade in 1993 and subsequent years. Lage said: We have studied ways to strengthen and develop these ties in the midst of the changes taking place worldwide, the process of restructuring that is in progress here in China, and the situation our country is going through.

Lage explained that, on this occasion, a commission will be created and the foundations laid with a view to having a joint intergovernmental commission meet in Beijing in December 1992 and determine, in concrete terms, the volume and nature of the mutual trade current.

Lage added: In the future, we will continue importing food and bicycles. We are working to install a bicycle factory in Cuba and we will export, in addition to traditional export products such as sugar, other new products, especially in the medical-pharmaceutical domain.

Lage stressed that Cuba appreciates and approaches China's experience with great respect and consideration and with an attitude of analysis and study in order to find in it sources of ideas for the particular plans that each country must apply in building socialism. The Cuban leader said: We are confident that the program of reforms in China will be successful, and, far from being an obstacle to the intensification of our economic and trade ties, will create conditions for enhancing them.

Lage Delegation Concludes Visit

FL3011021492 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Text] Today, the Cuban delegation headed by Carlos Lage, secretary of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers, concluded an eight-day visit to the People's Republic of China. Since his arrival in Beijing, Lage has maintained an intense series of contacts with Chinese leaders, which included Prime Minister Li Peng.

The agenda included an presentation to representatives of 23 Chinese corporations interested in diverse areas of bilateral cooperation. In this respect, areas such as the production of medical equipment and medicine, electrical motors, and bicycles, and the steel industry, among other things, were studied.

The official visit of Carlos Lage to China precedes a meeting of the intergovernmental Chinese-Cuban committee in December in Beijing.

PRC Delegation Visits To Strengthen Relations

PA2811214192 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1734 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Havana, 27 Nov (NOTIMEX)—Official sources reported here today that Cuba and China have carried out reciprocal high-level visits in order to intensify their military and economic relations in 1993.

A high level military delegation from the PRC is in Havana to exchange experiences and strengthen the relations between the Chinese and Cuban Armed Forces. The group, which includes Lieutenant General Liu

Mingpu, deputy chief of the General Logistics Department of the Chinese Army; and Major General Zhang Liping, chief of the Chinese Army's medical services; is holding meetings with high-ranking military officers of Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces (FAR).

The Chinese military officers are touring military garrisons and medical centers and it is expected that they will meet with Raul Castro Ruz, minister of the FAR, over the weekend of 28 November.

Havana and Beijing are analyzing the possibility of significantly increasing their commercial relations in 1993.

Carlos Lage, secretary of the Council of Ministers, is touring China and holding meetings with high-ranking Chinese officials to increase the trade between the two countries.

China's importance for Cuban trade has increased significantly since the disappearance of the Eastern Bloc in 1989. Regarding trade with Cuba, China has passed from third place to second place in 1991.

Trade between that Asian country and the island reached $426 million in 1991. This makes Cuba that country's number one trade partner in Latin America. In 1991 China granted special credits to Cuba to import nearly a million bicycles in keeping with Havana's policy of seeking alternate means of transportation due to the fuel crisis and filling the void left by the former USSR.

Some Cuban Government sources think trade between the two countries in 1992 should surpass $500 million, a record figure in their traditional bilateral relations. Chinese-Cuban trade in 1992 consisted of the exchange of Chinese spare parts for machinery, food, fans, bicycles, and medicine and Cuban medical products and sugar, among other things.

Lage, who is also member of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo, underscored in Beijing the intensification of relations between his country and China. He announced the joint intergovernmental commission will meet in the Chinese capital in December to determine the volume of trade between the two nations.

Carlos Lage has been on an official visit to this Asian country for the past four days to strengthen their traditional relations, which no longer include its former Eastern European friends.

China Explains UN Vote, Condemns 'Use of Force'

FL2711153992 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] The Chinese Government has said: We do not believe that embargoes and economic sanctions are instruments for finding solutions. This statement was made through the Chinese Foreign Ministry in explaining why it had voted in favor of Cuba at the UN General Assembly, after Havana had presented a draft resolution that rejects the embargo and the Torricelli Bill.

Yesterday, the Chinese government reiterated that the problems that have arisen in Cuban-U.S. relations should be addressed through consultations and negotiations. The Chinese Government criticized Washington's use of force.

Castro Comments on UN Resolution Victory

FL2911235592 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 1800 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Interview with Cuban President Fidel Castro by Gladys Rubio; date and place not given—live]

[Text] [Rubio] Commander, the UN resolution?

[Castro] Yes.

[Rubio] The UN resolution, the people are very happy about the Cuban victory at the United Nations. We would like to know how you feel about this, what has been fought for?

[Castro] [words indistinct] expresses our opinion. I have expressed great [word indistinct] on the television, the radio. We are all very happy, of course. I have spoken about this. I spoke of this the day before, even. We had the feeling we were going to obtain a majority but we did not expect that the opposition to the resolution would be completely defeated. But it was defeated. We did not expect the United States to get three votes, including theirs. And my evaluation is that all those who were there, as I said last night at the meeting with the pastors and the members of the [Pastor for Peace] caravan, those that were there, expressed their rejection of the embargo in this manner. And those that absented themselves expressed their rejection of the embargo in this way. This is my opinion. Much more than what we hoped for happened.

Castro Expresses 'Sorrow' to Venezuela's Perez

FL2811000292 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 2320 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, the president of the Councils of State and Ministers of the Republic of Cuba, has sent a message to Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez in which he expresses the following:

Dear Carlos Andres: We have no intention of interfering in the internal affairs which are entirely the responsibility of the Venezuelans, but I wish to express to you our profound sorrow at the human losses and material damage caused by today's tragic events, our hope that peace will be restored, and our most sincere desire that Venezuela will overcome its current difficulties and progress peacefully towards the well-being of all its citizens through economic development and social justice.

I take this opportunity to reiterate to you the Cuban people's deepest gratitude for Venezuela's noble attitude in the debate at the United Nations about the economic embargo against Cuba. This will consolidate even further the ties of solidarity, respect, and fraternity between our two peoples.

Foreign Ministry Issues Communique

FL2811015592 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Cuban Foreign Ministry statement issued on 27 November]

[Text] In view of the tragic events that have taken place starting on the morning of 27 November in the sister republic of Venezuela, the Cuban Foreign Ministry expresses its profound concern about the loss of life these confrontations have caused, as well as the Cuban Government's desire and trust that the situation will be resolved quickly and bloodlessly, and that unnecessary and regrettable additional losses for the dear Venezuelan people will be avoided.

In the name of the Cuban people and their revolutionary government, we send the Venezuelan people, through their government and President Carlos Andres Perez, our fervent wishes for the prompt restoration of peace, which will allow that fraternal nation to continue its efforts to achieve its dearest goals of stability and progress in all spheres.

Economic Model Blamed for Instability

FL2811180992 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 28 Nov 92

["Our Opinion" commentary by Orlando Contreras]

[Excerpts] A sociopolitical analysis of what has happened in Venezuela over the last few hours in order to either change or confirm socioeconomic and political directions taken is an internal matter that is up to the Venezuelans. However, two coup d'etat attempts in nine months do appear to be evidence of an instability that cannot be attributed exclusively to the ambitions of certain groups or sectors. [passage omitted]

At the summit of the non-aligned countries held in Belgrade in 1989, I asked President Carlos Andres Perez what conclusions his government had drawn from the dramatic events that occurred in Caracas just months after he took office. The Venezuelan president answered: That was due to the IMF, which seeks to force on us measures that negatively affect the masses and which are bad for the nation's economy.

Apparently, the pressures from the IMF, the World Bank, Venezuela's creditors—Venezuela has a big foreign debt—and the U.S. Government itself, which controls those international financial institutions and bosses them around, have been of such magnitude that they have left Mr. Carlos Andres Perez's government little political space in which to maneuver. (?There may be) other interpretations, which it is up to the Venezuelans to make.

In examining this matter, I am not trying to make any value judgments on moments in time or their protagonists but rather on the neoliberal model that certain people are attempting to impose on the countries of the Third World—and, concretely, on the Latin American and Caribbean nations—by force.

When measures to achieve greater balance between development and social justice are taken in rich countries; and when even in the United States the socioeconomic problems affecting the American masses have to a great extent been responsible for Bush's humiliating defeat and the victory of the Democratic candidate, who offered a change; while that is happening in the very place where the model—which (?is going under and, unfortunately, causing bloodshed)—was invented, certain people want to impose that very model on the poorest countries, the countries in which the need for social justice and development is therefore most pressing. Peace, democracy, and development are not possible without social justice; and events [hechos], the stubborn and bleak facts [hechos], are bearing this out.

It has always been said—and not without reason—that when things go out of fashion in the so-called main, or rich, countries, such fashions then reach the poor periphery. This is what happened with existentialism, or the miniskirt, to give two dissimilar and obviously irrelevant examples. However, it is tragic and cruel for there to be, at a moment when the neoliberal model is beginning to be questioned in capitalism's own big cities, attempts to impose the model on the countries of the Third World through pressures and blackmail. Venezuela's drama does not seem to be immune from this reality. [passage omitted]

Venezuela's internal drama is not unrelated to the current international situation and to the existence of pressures to impose and shape models that break up, separate, two things that are in reality indivisible: economic development and social justice. Without social justice, harmonious economic development is not possible; and without social justice and harmonious economic development, peace and democracy cannot be guaranteed.

Havana City Outages To Extend to 8 Hours Daily

FL2811033492 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0315 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] The electricity transmission and distribution enterprise in Havana has reported that due to low stocks of the fuel used to generate electricity, power outages will increase to a minimum of eight hours a day. Enterprise Director Alfredo Lopez stated that this plan will be in effect until 4 December, when the situation will be evaluated to determine whether to modify this measure.

He reported that on 30 November a meeting will be held of the executive committee of the Havana City People's Government with representatives from all the national organizations so that they may adopt the appropriate measures in their entitites located in Havana. It is important to stress the efforts being made by the Electrical Union to reduce the outages, especially on the weekends. An attempt will be made so that the power outages will not affect food production and cold-storage centers and hospitals.

Due to the low stocks of fuel at some electricity generating units, municipalities in Havana City Province will be affected by power outages tomorrow. Regla, Guanabacoa, San Miguel del Padron, Cotorro, and Habana del Este Municipalities—which make up Block No. 5—will have outages on 28 November from 0500 to 0900 and 1300 to 1700. The Havana transmission and distribution enterprise has also reported that there will be no electricity on 28 November in Plaza and Cerro Municipalities from 0900 to 1300 and 1700 to 2000. There will also be power outages on 28 November in Marianao, Playa, and La Lisa Municipalities from 1300 to 1700. Boyeros, Diez de Octubre, and Arroyo Naranjo Municipalities will not have electricity from 0900 to 1300 and 1700 to 2000, and Centro Habana and Habana Vieja will not have electricity from 2000 to 2300.

Raul Castro Tours Santiago de Cuba Municipality

FL2611024692 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Excerpt] For over five hours, the second secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, toured the Pie Arriba's Peoples' Council district which is also a defense zone in Songo-La Maya Municipality in Santiago de Cuba Province. Eastern and Western Army Chiefs Division Generals Ramon Espinosa Martin and Leopoldo Cintra Frias, both heroes of the Republic of Cuba; as well as other military and political leaders were also present.

Army General Raul Castro Ruz toured on 24 November the region covered by the Pie Arriba's Peoples' Council. This area is also a defense zone inf Songo-La Maya Municipality in Santiago de Cuba Province. [passage omitted]

Continues Tour of Eastern Army

FL2811031492 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] Army General Raul Castro, the second secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, has continued his tour of the territory of the Eastern Army, visiting several places in the mountainous areas of Guantanamo, Santiago de Cuba, and Holguin Provinces. A point of special interest was the scientific center located in Sabaneta and subordinate to the Academy of Sciences. This center is carrying out important work in the production of coffee, cacao, tubers, and vegetables under mountain conditions. The search for biological fertilizers and pesticides based on what exists in and is demanded by mountain agriculture, and obtaining livestock feed and veterinary products, are also subjects of work at this scientific institution.

Raul and his comrades stopped in at the various laboratories, expressing interest in the initial achievements that are being attained, such as tissue cultures for seed production. They also observed encouraging results in the production of biological fertilizers and other biological products to combat crop and animal diseases in the region.

[Begin unidentified laboratory worker recording] We have this whole series of biological measures. There are biological measures for controlling nematodes, insects, mites, and cattle ticks. We can produce them on a large scale. We have the means to do so. Here, for example, is the organic pesticide to be used against whitefly. This one is the organic pesticide that attacks coffee rust. We isolated it here. This one is for cattle ticks. [end recording]

The young researchers, technicians, and other workers at this center are working in temporary laboratories while the permanent building is being built nearby. The construction workers on this project assured Raul Castro, the minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, that next year the new building will be finished. In this same area, pleasant houses are being built at low cost with materials that are in short supply. These houses are intended for this center's workers, teachers from the nearby Sabaneta agronomy school, and agricultural workers. In the entire Sabaneta agricultural-forestry enterprise, about 160 low-cost housing units will be completed this year, despite the special period.

At the historic airport in Mayari Arriba, the runway is being covered with hundreds of beds of tomatoes, cabbage, lettuce, and other vegetables. The plan for this organoponic project, when its 780 beds are in production, is to obtain about 4,000 quintals of vegetables per year. Another giant organoponic project with similar characteristics was visited in Pinares de Mayari. The runway of this airport is at an altitude of 700 meters and benefits from a cooler and rainier microclimate. Thus, the workers expect to get very satisfactory results.

The light infantry mountain brigade was an important stop in this tour by Minister Raul Castro, who was accompanied by Division Generals Leopoldo Cintra and Ramon Espinosa, the chiefs of the Western and Eastern Armies, respectively, among others. Lieutenant Colonel Enrique Duenas, the chief of the brigade General Staff, gave a briefing on the unit's combat training to carry out its assigned missions and annihilate any enemy that dares to set foot on this unconquered mountain range in the northern part of the eastern region.

On the Via Mulata, a monumental project that extends 236 km from Mella Municipality in Santiago de Cuba Province to Baracoa, the construction of bridges, fords, ditches, and other details continues. It will shortly be declared completely passable. Minister Raul Castro observed the quality of the work and the progress that has been made since his last visit in May.

On this occasion, the 25th [as heard] anniversary of the departure from Tuxpan for Cuba, the history of the yacht Granma commanded by Fidel was recalled. After the laying of a wreath at the monument to the combatants who fell on the Frank Pais Second Eastern Front, a red flower was left on the tomb of Pedro Soto Alva, who fell in combat in Moa and had been one of the 82 Granma expenditionaries, as a simple and solemn remembrance of that feat.

Greek Communist Party Secretary Meets Castro

NC2711222092 Athens RIZOSPASTIS in Greek 27 Nov 92 p 3

[Excerpts] KKE [Greek Communist Party] General Secretary Aleka Papariga met Cuban leader Fidel Castro today. [as published]

The two-and-a-half-hour discussion covered the following issues:

First: The situation in Cuba, particularly the diplomatic victory against the U.S. embargo at the UN General Assembly discussion.

Second: The Balkans situation, the economy, and the general situation in Greece.

Third: Exchange of views on joint action by the Communist Parties and the International Solidarity to Cuba. [passage omitted]

The KKE general secretary pointed out that the party will multiply its efforts to mobilize the solidarity of the Greek people toward the people of Cuba. Papariga said that Cuba's survival does not only concern supporters of socialism and communist parties, but all progressive people. [passage omitted]

Electoral Official on Candidate Selection

PA2811031292 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0100 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Interview with Doctor Carlos Amat, president of the National Electoral Commission, by Pedro Martinez Pirez in Havana; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Martinez] Amat, preparations currently are under way for the municipal assembly elections. When will the electoral process conclude in Cuba?

[Amat] Well, the Council of State publicly issued a summons to hold municipal elections, meaning the first phase. The first round should conclude on 20 December and the second round, to settle cases of candidates who got the same amount of votes or those who did not receive enough votes, should conclude on 27 December.

The Council of State must issue a new summons for the second phase of the process, in other words, the election of delegates to provincial assemblies and deputies to the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP]. This has not been done. We will be able to determine when the process will conclude based on the terms and dates established by the summons.

Nevertheless, we believe the summons will be issued once this phase ends; once the elected officials are sworn in—we think this may happen early in January; and immediately after the municipal assemblies of the ANPP are appointed.

[Martinez] The electoral process in Cuba is interesting because in this phase the people nominate and elect the candidates who will comprise the municipal assemblies. Later, the candidacy commissions actually send the municipal assemblies proposals for the provincial assemblies and the ANPP, and the people again elect the provincial delegates and ANPP deputies through a secret and direct vote. Is that right, Amat?

[Amat] That is correct but I would like to explain some details. Candidacy comissions at national level are created parallel to the electoral commission. The candidacy commissions are comprised of the workers' representatives, meaning the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions, CTC; the Federation of Cuban Women, FMC; the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution, CDR; the University Students' Federation, FEU; the Intermediate Level Students' Federation; and the National Association of Small Farmers, what we call the ANAP in Cuba.

These people comprise the candidacy commissions at different levels, meaning at municipal, provincial, and national level. Each of the commissions proposes a list of candidates based on whichever delegates are elected by the people's direct vote. This should be done by the municipal assembly you mentioned. All the appointed delegates become, in turn, a pool from which the ANPP deputies and provincial delegates are chosen.

The candidacy commissions take the pool into consideration just as they take into consideration many people who were not appointed delegates simply because only one can be chosen for each district—even though they are people who have great merits and a history of work and dedication; and they have lived an exemplary life. They are people who would really enlighten any assembly at provincial or national level.

Furthermore, the organizations which later comprise the candidacy commissions hold direct consultations with the masses—the workers with other workers in the CTC; the women with the FMC; the students with the FEU—to make a selection of the best within each group. The people who are thus selected comprise the pool from

which the candidacy commissions complement the other 50 percent of the candidacies which must be proposed to the municipal assemplies.

Once the list of candidates is proposed, the municipal assemblies approve or reject it. They have the authority to reject some of the candidates or all the candidates—they might decide to reject all of them. In this case, the candidacy commissions would be compelled to propose another person or persons, until the assembly accepts and considers adequate the proposal submitted by the commissions. The list approved by the municipal assembly is used to print the ballots which the people will cast in secret and directly to elect their delegates to the provincial assembly and their deputies to the ANPP.

[Martinez] Amat, do you think the ANPP elected in this process will be superior to the previous one, qualitatively speaking, even though Cuba's democratic process is the same?

[Amat] We are sure of this because the goal sought by the process for the election of district delegates is to select them not only taking into consideration their value—either locally or at district level—but also taking into consideration the fact that the candidate elected today may very well become a member of the candidacy commissions, a member of the provincial assembly, or a deputy of the ANPP in the future. Since this interest has prevailed and since there has been a rigorous selection, plus the selection made by the candidacy commissions, we have no doubts the final selection of candidates to the provincial assemblies and the ANPP will be much more rigorous, qualitatively speaking, regarding the members and their characteristics.

* Changes in Sowing Sugarcane Reported

93P40041C

[Editorial Report] Havana JUVENTUD REBELDE in Spanish of 1 November 1992 on page 2 reports that, in an effort to increase sugarcane yields, plants are being placed closer together, a practice which cuts down on weeds, according to the article. A new product called compot, made of ashes, limestone, torula, and "other products," will be used to fertilize 10,000 caballerias of sugarcane next year. The article further reports that workers who do not comply with the technical requirements in planting sugarcane will not be allowed to work in this sector.

* Fuel Savings, Milk Production Described

93P40041A

[Editorial Report] Havana GRANMA in Spanish of 3 November 1992 on page 3 reports that 32 cattle farms are using little or no machinery or oil. The use of draft animals to transport water, fodder, and equipment has made it possible for cattle farmers to use 1,700 liters of fuel per day instead of the 16,000 previously used. Housing units are also being built near the farms for 70 percent of the farm workers in order to save fuel for transporting people to and from work. Cebu cows previously used for nursing calves are being milked thus producing an additional 3,000 liters of milk per day.

* Trains To Subsidize Ambulance Service

93P40041B

[Editorial Report] Havana TRABAJADORES in Spanish of 2 November 1992 on page 12 reports that a special car to transport patients from Sancti Spiritus to Havana City will be added to regular passenger trains. The car, which will hold 44 seats, eight beds, and a nursing station, will make it possible to eliminate the three to four daily trips made by ambulances, thus saving fuel. The train will make two trips a week and in the future will also make stops in Ciego de Avila and Villa Clara. Ambulance service will only handle emergencies.

Cayman Islands

Executive Council Portfolio Assignments Announced

FL2711183792 Bridgetown CANA in English 1629 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] George Town, Grand Cayman, Nov 27, CANA—Thomas Jefferson, the unofficial leader of the Coalition National Team, which swept to a landslide victory in Cayman Islands national elections last week, has been given responsibility for the influential tourism, environment, and planning portfolio.

Portfolio responsibilities for newly-elected members of the executive council, the governing body of this western Caribbean British territory, were announced Thursday [26 November] by Governor Michael Gore. Jefferson, the unofficial leader of the national team, formed to contest the elections, is a former financial seretary. The national team won 12 of the 15 legislative seats in the national elections. Tourism is generally considered the most prestigious portfolio on the executive council.

In a surprise announcement, the aviation portfolio was separated from tourism and placed with education and culture. Truman Bodden, who was the education minister from 1976-1984, was named to head this newly-created portfolio. Under aviation is government-owned Cayman Airways, which had a debt of U.S.32 million dollars at the end of June 1992. The carrier brought more than 175,000 tourists to the Cayman Islands in 1991, representing a market share of about 70 percent.

McKeeva Bush was given the portfolio of health and human services while Jon McLean, who was agriculture minister from 1980-84, was given the portfolio for communications, works, and agriculture. Governor Gore said the three civil servants on the council retained their posts. They are Lem Hurlston, chief secretary; internal and external affairs financial secretary, George McCarthy; and Attorney General Richard Coles.

A fifth portfolio is expected to be added when the legislative assembly begins debate on a new constitution in January. Jefferson's team was elected on a promise of a cutback in government spending, government without a chief minister, and reorganisation of Cayman Airways. "We would like ... in early 1993, to call a special meeting to deal with amending the constitution to create a fifth Exco position ..." he said.

"Any action in relation to Cayman Airways Limited would have to take heed of the airline's Caymanian employees and their best interests," he added. Jefferson and other national team members have threatened to downsize the airline from serving six U.S. destinations, Jamaica, and Turks and Caicos to Miami and Jamaica. The airline curently has 373 employees and operates four Boeing 737 aircraft to service its routes.

Haiti

CONACOM Members Abducted: One Dead, One Missing

FL2711192992 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Two members of the National Democratic Movement [CONACOM] have been abducted. One has died and the other is missing. CONACOM advises that armed civilians in a jeep abducted two of its members: Wesner Luc, 20; and Justin Bresil, 29; on 22 November on the Carrefour Road, near the Colysee Theater. The body of Wesner Luc was found in Santo 21, on the Croix-des-Bouquets. He was identified at the mortuary of the Haitian State University Hospital by his parents. Justin Resil has been reported missing.

CONACOM calls on everyone to take steps... [pauses] anyone who believes he knows the whereabouts of Justin Resil to get in touch with the party. They ask the proper authorities to take steps to see if they can find the missing CONACOM member. This was signed by Victor Benoit, secretary general of the party.

Parliamentarians Comment on Assembly Postponement

FL2711220392 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Excerpts] The National Assembly extraordinary session that Prime Minister Marc Louis Bazin convened for 25 November did not take place because too few senators were present. Forty-eight deputies attended the session, but only 12 of 25 senators were present. Consequently, the Senate quorum was not reached. After attempts to reach one more senator, the president of the National Assembly, Senator Dejean Belizaire, postponed the session—which did not even begin—to 30 November. After postponment, Sen. Belizaire acknowledged the failure to convene, but said he would work to end the conflict in the Senate of the Republic so a quorum can be reached Monday. According to Sen. Belizaire, the formation of the Permanent Electoral Council [CEP] is important to the future of democracy in the country. Sen. Belizaire thinks elections must be held for the senators. [passage omitted]

Alliance for Parliamentary Cohesion [ACP] Deputy Frantz Robert Monde, who thinks the country is hampered by what happened, said he would propose that his colleagues in the ACP resign collectively so as to dissolve the legislature. [passage omitted]

Jacmel Deputy Joseph Lambert believes that a failure to hold senatorial elections will cause the dissolution of parliament and, therefore, an institutional crisis in the country. Prime Minister Marc Bazin will no longer hold his position and Article 149 of the Constitution will be applicable, according to Deputy Lambert. [passage omitted]

National Front for Change and Democracy Parliamentary Bloc Sen. Firmin Jean-Louis has asked for the resignation of Prime Minister Marc Louis Bazin and pointed out that he does not agree with the idea of forming the CEP. [passage omitted]

Evans Paul Congratulates Boycotting Legislators

FL2711184492 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Passage within slantlines in Creole]

[Text] Some new reactions have been reported in the political sector after the aborted 25 November session of the National Assembly. The Port-au-Prince mayor-elect congratulates the parliamentarians who had chosen to boycott the session. Evans Paul again says that the solution to the crisis lies in the reinstatement of those elected in the 16 December 1990 and 20 January 1991 elections.

[Begin Paul recording] /We believe that any attempt that focuses on respect for the Constitution, respect for democracy, respect for human rights, and respect for the results of the 16 December 1990 and 20 January 1991 elections will be directed toward the creation of a national concord government that includes all democrats who want to find a program of social appeasement to enable the country to buckle down to its problems of under-development. The National Front For Change and Democracy [FNCD] will agree and I will agree because it is what we have been advocating for a year. Mr. Bazin therefore does not need to continue bluffing the nation by giving the impression that he wants to solve the problem because Mr. Bazin knows that there is only one solution to the crisis. It is the restoration of the constitutional order via respect for the 16 December elections, implying the return of President Aristide and all the other elected officials. This will allow the economic sanctions to be lifted on the country and will allow the embargo to be lifted, in turn allowing the population to gain confidence./ [end recording]

Avril Reported To Elude U.S. Court; Entry Denied

FL2511180292 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Former Lieutenant-General Prosper Avril, previously president of the Haitian Military Government from September 1988 to March 1990, left the country on the night of 24 November. He departed from the Port-au-Prince airport for the Dominican Republic after seeking .... [pauses] after arriving in the country that same morning. He had been trying to enter the country, but the military authorities insisted that he leave. Former Gen. Avril left the island aboard a special flight of the private Haitian company, Carib Inter. According to our information, The ambassador of the Dominican Republic to Haiti, Mr. Jose Del Carmen Acosta, who was present at the airport, issued a visa authorizing the former president and his wife to spend three months in the Dominican Republic.

The former president had arrived Tuesday morning from Miami where he had been living in exile since he resigned and was forced to leave Haiti under both popular and diplomatic pressures in March 1990. According to military sources, the Haitian officials prohibited the former president from entering the national territory where his presence would be considered a factor of destabilization for the country. His wife also left the country. A son of his, obviously accustomed to entering the country, got over the hurdle at the airport.

According to reliable sources, former President Prosper Avril was trying to enter the country to elude legal action taken against him by the federal court in Florida following complaints lodged by six Haitian opponents including Evans Paul, Frantz Patrick Beauchard, Serge Gilles, abnd Marino Etienne who were arrested during the All Saints' Day events on 1 November 1988. Mr. Avril's statute of limitations with the court expires today. [passage omitted]

Jamaica

Agreement on Food Aid Signed With U.S.

FL2611215192 Bridgetown CANA in English 2134 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Nov 26, CANA—Jamaica is receiving U.S.30 million dollars in food aid from the United States under a support agreement between Washington and Kingston signed here this week. Under the agreement Jamaica will be able to purchase 66,800 tonnes of rice and 125,000 tonnes of corn, covered by the U.S. PL 480 Food Aid Programme.

Jamaica is a regular beneficiary of the programme. The scheme calls for the proceeds from the sale of the products on the local market to be used to support programmes to improve food security and alleviate poverty. The terms of the programme include a 25 year repayment period at 3 per cent interest. There is a six year grace period on repayment.

Governor Denies Central Bank Illegal Currency Purchase

FL2711224392 Bridgetown CANA in English 2055 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Nov 27, CANA—Jamaica's Central Bank governor, Roderick Rainford, insisted Friday [27 November] that the bank bought foreign exchange at its published rates but pledged to resign if it in fact lied on the matter.

"If it turns out that I am wrong, I will certainly resign," Rainford said on radio here.

The opposition Jamaica Labour Party charged recently that currency purchase agents operating on behalf of the Bank of Jamaica had purchased foreign exchange at rates substantially higher than the J22.20 dollars for US1 dollar range published by the bank.

Opposition leader Edward Seaga claimed that by this action, the Central Bank was itself fuelling the black market, underlining contentions that the Jamaican dollar was under tremendous pressure.

The Central Bank previously denied the accusations and that was forcefully repeated by Rainford, who last month took over as head of the Central Bank.

"The Bank of Jamaica has not been buying and will not buy, at least while I am governor, foreign exchange over the rate that has been published," said Rainford, the former secretary general of the Caribbean Community (Caricom).

The issue of whether the Central Bank has in fact breached its own reporting requirements, if it were true, would be particularly embarassing at this time given the outcry against Century National Bank (CNB) for its late reporting of a purchase of funds from the U.S. Embassy here.

"Our books will show that we are buying foreign exchange at the rate that is published," Rainford said.

St. Lucia

Compton Urges Private Sector To Utilize French Funds

FL2611205892 Bridgetown CANA in English 2032 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, Nov 26, CANA—An agreement allowing for a French financial institution to provide funding for private sector development projects in St. Lucia was signed here on Thursday [26 November]. The signing came amid calls for closer co-operation between the English-speaking Caribbean countries and their French-speaking neighbours.

Philippe Jurgensen, of the Paris-based Caisse Francaise de Development (CFD), said that the agreement will allow for greater private sector activity "which should make for an important contribution to investment and growth in St. Lucia." The CFD is the main shareholder of Proparco, the French financial institution providing fundings to the private sector.

"Today's agreement will allow us to go and step up our activity in the country in the field of infrastructure," Jurgensen, who is heading a four-member delegation here, said. He reported that Proparco, which will funnel its funds through local banks under re-financing agreements or directly to companies under acceptable guarantees, would also be willing to become partners in local companies.

He urged businesses, particularly the National Development Foundation (NDF), to take advantage of a "support of local productive small initiative scheme" which Proparco administers. Jurgensen urged joint promotion activities involving the English and French-speaking private sectors, indicating that Proparco was willing to assist.

St. Lucia's prime minister, John Compton, said at the signing ceremony, that the institution would provide the private sector with badly needed funds for future growth. Compton said most of the banks operating here were providing funds on a short term basis, which, in most cases did not meet the requirements of the private sector.

"They are not structured for the development functions and our development banks are in the main not sufficiently active.... to respond to the private sector initiatives," he said.

Compton urged the private sector to make use of Proparco, especially in seeking joint ventures with French businesses. "Today we have a new window of opportunity opened to us," he said.

CFD has in the past provided substantial funds to assist the public sector here. According to figures released here, CFD has provided EC80 million dollars (1 EC dollar = 37 U.S. cents) for projects ranging from airport rehabilitation to investments in the tourism industry. Jurgensen said that CFD was also providing funding for projects in the other Windward Islands—Dominica, Grenada, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines—such as extension of hydro electricty generation and improvement of the water supply systems.

Compton Seeks Environmental, Developmental Balance

FL2611190392 Bridgetown CANA in English 1806 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, Nov 26, CANa—St. Lucia's prime minister, John Compton, says he wants countries to adopt an approach to development that will "stem the tide of (environmental) degradation." But he took a crack at some environmentalists who he said thought the only path to environmental salvation was "the sterilization of natural resources and their preservation in a totally pristine state."

Compton made his position clear while addressing the opening ceremony of the multi-million dollar Caribbean Environment Health Institute (CEHI) building here Wednesday evening. He said that while man had for centuries abused the environment, it was important now to safeguard it for future generations by defining and establishing "an approach to development which will stem the tide of the degradation ... And eventually reverse this process through the adoption of sustainable development solutions."

Compton said he did not think "that the only path to environmental salvation is the sterilization of natural resources and their preservation in a totally pristine state."

"This type of fundamentalist conservationism is unrealistic and myopic and ignores the inescapable need to alleviate poverty, and provide for the most basic needs of countless millions the world over," he said. He said that the approach taken by such groups had in some cases done more harm than good to their cause "because of the unrealistic nature of their position, especially in the context of developing countries where the need to alleviate poverty is so critical."

"Developing countries cannot escape the trap of persistent and crippling poverty, if they are denied the right to utilize their resources for the upliftment of their people," Compton said. In recent years, industrialised countries have been linking aid to developing states with environmental programmes.

Compton said that the real issue facing developing countries was "not the exploitation of natural resources, but rather the intelligent and responsible exploitation of those resources to satisfy basic human needs." He said that development and environmental protection must not be seen as mutually exclusive, but must be pursued simultaneously, "and in a manner which will guarantee the total development of mankind."

"It is in the intelligent pursuit of these two apparently conflicting goals that we will find the answer to sustainable human development," he told the gathering. Compton said that in St. Lucia "every effort is being made to incorporate detailed environmental impact assessments as a pre-requisite to the approval of development projects." Caribbean governments in 1980 agreed to the establishment of CEHI, as a means of managing the region's environment. Its new structure here was built with finances provided by the St. Lucia and German Governments. Compton viewed the project as "one of regional significance" and a recognition by Caribbean countries of the critical importance of embracing sustainable development strategies.

Continuing 'Slower' Economic Growth Predicted

FL2711210492 Bridgetown CANA in English 1704 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, Nov 27, CANA—Economic growth in St. Lucia, markedly slower in 1991, reflects a trend which analysts see likely to prevail across the east Caribbean sub region.

St. Lucia's acting director of finance, statistics and negotiating, Zenith James, told a meeting of bankers here this week there were predictions that the economies of the seven-member Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) were unlikely to maintain the bouyancy achieved in the last [word indistinct]. James said the projections reflect adverse changes in recently important areas for the sub-region - falling banana prices, and the effect of international recession on foreign investment and tourism.

St. Lucia's gross domestic product (GDP) - the total monetary worth of goods and services produced within the country - grew 1.7 per cent in 1991 to reach EC938 million dollars (one EC dollar - 37 US cents) , slowing from the robust 4.3 per cent growth achieved in 1990 when GDP reached 876.6 million dollars.

Addressing the annual general meeting of the National Commercial Bank (NCB), James attributed the 1991 decline in St. Lucia primarily to contractions in output of the agricultural sector, especially the banana sub-sector.

"The share of GDP accounted for by agriculture declined from 14.7 per cent in 1990 to 12.4 per cent in 1991," she said. Banana production fell by 25.5 per cent to 99,506 tons in 1991 and this was reflected in declines in both the volume and value of banana exports.

The volume of [words indistinct] 24.6 per cent to 99,234 tonnes, while banana export earnings declined by 19.3 per cent to 151.9 million dollars.

James said the decline in value was less steep than the decline in volume because of an increase in the average green wholesale price of bananas in the United Kingdom and a modest appreciation of the pound sterling vis-a-vis the EC dollar.

In relation to other economic indicators, James observed that inflation was up in 1991. Deposit growth slowed with credit even slower to bring about a slight improvement in liquidity.

Inflation, as measured by the consumer price index, increased from 4.37 per cent in 1990 to 6.10 per cent in 1991, the result of both internal and external factors.

James said that while there had been some improvement in liquidity in the financial system over the previous year, the situation remained relatively tight. Excess reserves (monetary holdings in the financial system above statutory deposit liabilities) reached six per cent.

Growth in total deposit liabilities slowed significantly, 7.92 per cent down at EC842.6 million (one EC dollar - 37 US cents).

"However, the growth rate in domestic credit was also lower at 6.4 per cent and thus contributed to the overall improved liquidity position," she said.

Trinidad and Tobago

Banks Take Measures To Prevent Money Laundering

FL2711174792 Bridgetown CANA in English 1451 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Nov 26, CANA—Eight commercial banks in Trinidad and Tobago are taking action to safeguard the interests of their customers and themselves by introducing procedures to prevent money laundering.

"With effect from December 1, 1992, customers transacting business with the undersigned commercial banks in excess of TT25,000 dollar (one TT dollar = 23.5 U.S. cents) may be required to complete a "source of funds declaration form," advertisements in the daily newspapers here stated. The eight banks are the Bank of Commerce, Citibank (Trinidad and Tobago), Republic Bank, Trinidad Co- Operative, the Bank of Nova Scotia of Trinidad and Tobago, the National Commercial Bank of Trinidad and Tobago, the Royal Bank of Trinidad and Tobago and Workers' Bank (1989) Ltd.

The banks said that assets held by commercial banks including balances in bank accounts and those pledged as security for loans were governed by the Dangerous Drug Act, 1991 and were liable to confiscation if found to comprise the proceeds of drug trafficking.

"Additionally, under the act, commercial banks may be held liable for facilitating the retention of the proceeds of drug trafficking," the ad stated.

In November 1991, the parliament enacted the Dangerous Drugs Act, to provide for the control of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances and the confiscation of the proceeds of drug trafficking.

"Notwithstanding the introduction of these new procedures, customers are assured that commercial banks will continue to safeguard the confidentiality of all customers information, except and to the extent that disclosure is required by law," the banks said. While the introduction of the new procedures was unlikely to affect the vast majority of the customers, the banks said it was necessary in view of the severe penalties associated with money laundering under the act.

Money laundering is a system of "cleaning" money from drugs and other illegal sources by funnelling it into reputable institutions.

Workers Union To Reject Budgeted Wage Freeze

FL2611184192 Bridgetown CANA in English 1751 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Nov 26, CANA—The Public Services Association [PSA]—a union which represents 40,000 public sector workers in Trinidad and Tobago—said on Thursday [26 November] it would reject any attempts to freeze workers' salaries. In a statement, the union said the 1993 budget which was presented last Friday suggested that salaries in the public service were to be frozen next year.

"This is seen in the context of the wage restraint to ensure improvement in the balance of payments. It is also seen as implementation of part of the government's medium term policy framework which calls for "containment" and "reversal" of public service salaries as a percentage of recurrent expenditure," it stated. The union said government wanted to reduce the percentage of its expenditure on its employees while it continued to increase the debt servicing to the foreign lenders.

The PSA also voiced concern about non-payment of 2.5 billion dollar (one TT dollar = 23.5 U.S. cents) owed to workers. The outstanding debt to the workers results from arrears on Cost of Living Allownce (COLA) and other increments which were suspended by the last regime to help stem the economic decline. The union said the almost seven billion dollar budget also meant the prospect of job losses in the public service and the statutory bodies, and the mounting of debt owed to the workers.

Salinas Expresses Support for Venezuela's Perez

PA2811030992 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] President Carlos Salinas de Gortari has condemned the attempted coup d'etat that took place in the early hours of 27 November in Venezuela. This action is contrary to democracy which harms those who try to carry it out as well as those who do not make a stand against it, the Mexican president emphasized.

Speaking from Tepic, Nayarit, President Salinas telephoned Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez. Salinas told Perez that once he learned of the Caracas events, he contacted the Venezuelan president to voice his wholehearted support.

Salinas added he also had a telephone conversation with Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, who agreed that what happened in Venezuela does not damage Latin American integration.

Serra Puche Announces Commerce Restructuring

PA2911162092 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] The restructuring of the Secretariat for Commerce and Industrial Development [Secofi] has been announced by Secretary Jaime Serra Puche. This restructuring will make it possible to meet, quickly and adequately, the demands posed by the stimuli of economic activities, the opening of Mexico's economy to other countries, the ongoing search for greater competitiveness, and the expansion of economic deregulation, among other programs.

Serra Puche announced that an under secretariat for international commercial negotiations will be created, to be headed by Herminio Blanco. Pedro Noyola will head the under secretariat for foreign trade, which will now also handle foreign investments. Fernando Sanchez Ugarte will head the under secretariat for industry. Eugenio Carrion will be in charge of the under secretariat for interior commerce.

[Begin Serra Puche recording] I wish to underline that, with this measure, the functions of the Directorate General of Commercial Practices have been expanded greatly to provide adequate assistance against unfair commercial practices such as dumping. [end recording]

He reported that Antonio Arguelles will continue to hold the post of senior official at the Secofi. The Directorate General of Juridical Affairs and the Economic Deregulation and Social Communication Department remain unchanged.

El Salvador

Cristiani Rules Out Probability of Coup

PA2811183292 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] President Alfredo Cristiani on 27 November ruled out the possibility of a coup d'etat in El Salvador. Cristiani replied to the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] report on a plot to overthrow him and said this rumor is just a FMLN excuse not to demobilize. He admitted the process is in a delicate period because it is in the final stage. He said, however, the government and the Armed Forces are working hard for the fulfillment of the peace agreements.

[Begin recording] [Cristiani] Naturally, we are urging everyone to keep calm. The situation should not alarm us or prompt criticism. We should carry on as usual. The peace process will continue. Although the last stages are difficult and there have been problems, you can see that we have forged ahead and the process has not stopped. We are confident that the coming Christmas and New Year will be completely peaceful and tranquil. That is how we should continue. We should not listen to rumors. [words indistinct]

[Unidentified reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Cristiani] We have held regular meetings with United Nations Observer Group in El Salvador to discuss the government's compliance with the peace agreements. There has been only one additional meeting, where we read a letter from the UN secretary general reporting he was upset and called on the Army and the FMLN to complete the agreed upon demobilization by the 15 December deadline because there would be no more rescheduling. In addition, we had already addressed a note to the UN delegate in El Salvador reporting the government intends to complete the land transfer program and the government will not encourage the relocation of people included in the peace agreements, both in letter and spirit. All of us know some lands that are not included in any guarantees have continued to be confiscated. The government has been working since last week to give assurances to the agricultural sector, including the people who participate in the land transfer process, as part of the peace agreements. The program was presented on 26 November and approved unanimously. [end recording]

This is part of President Cristiani's remarks after he attended a ceremony graduation of 50 Military Academy officers and 23 Air Force pilot noncommissioned officers at El Espino hacienda on 27 November.

Referring to the attack on the La Mariona Prison by unidentified individuals, he said the attack was similar to attacks the FMLN perpetrated on the prison in the past. According to the president's report for the press, the attack left two people slightly injured with no escapees. The attack was probably staged by the FMLN, he said. He also said the peace process entered a delicate stage on 31 October, when the FMLN should have concluded its demobilization. He said he is confident, however, that the total disarming of the FMLN will be completed by 15 December. He reported that legislation giving protection to the agricultural sector, including the transfer of land ownership—a procedure that benefits both Army and FMLN combatants—was approved almost unanimously. He said the approval of this legislation guarantees there will be no relocations once the guerrillas conclude their demobilization on 15 December.

Among other things, President Cristiani referred to the coup attempt in Venezuela and said: We believe that constitutional order must be preserved in every country. We reject any attempt at disrupting this order.

Minister Denies Rumors

PA2811005992 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] General Rene Emilio Ponce, the defense minister, agreed on 27 November with President Alfredo Cristiani's assertions to the effect that the complaint leveled on the evening of 26 November by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] regarding a possible coup d'etat in El Salvador is only an excuse by the FMLN to avoid demobilizing and destroying their weapons by 15 December.

Gen. Ponce said the Armed Forces have been a key element in the consolidation and strengthening of the peace process in El Salvador, and a coup would contradict what they have done throughout the past 12 years.

Ponce, who on 27 November accompanied President Cristiani at the graduation exercises for approximately 50 new officers at the Captain General Gerardo Barrios Military Academy, said he could categorically inform the public that within the core of the Armed Forces there is no plan to conduct a coup d'etat, and the rumor is an FMLN fantasy aimed at confusing the public.

[Begin recording] [Ponce] Those are totally irresponsible rumors and they are aimed at destabilizing the country. I believe they are part of an FMLN strategy and they reveal the (?obvious) divisions that exist within the organization. Their goal, as the president has said, is to avoid disarming, destroying their weapons, and demobilizing. I can categorically inform the public that within the core of the Armed Forces there is no plan to conduct a coup d'etat. I will reiterate once again that this is an FMLN fantasy intended to confuse the public.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr. Minister, it is expected that within the next few days the Armed Forces will carry out routine [words indistinct] within the military structure. Could you advance the names [words indistinct] General Staff?

[Ponce] That is a decision that the general commander of the Armed Forces must make at the appropriate time.

Therefore, any speculation surrounding the issue should not be taken into consideration.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]

[Ponce] According to the information regarding the type of weapons used, the manner in which the attack was conducted, and the statements of some of the jail guards, it was an FMLN commando. You must remember that the FMLN's urban commandos have not concentrated and that the FMLN still has weapons dispersed outside the concentration areas. I believe, I am almost certain that the attack was part of the FMLN's strategy; it was a show of strength.

[Reporter] [question indistinct]

[Ponce] That is a decision the (?president) will have to make. The Armed Forces are at his orders.

[Reporter] Although you deny the possibility of a coup d'etat, what consequences would such an action have on El Salvador?

[Ponce] You ought to know that the Armed Forces have been a key element in the consolidation and strengthening of the democratization process in El Salvador. A coup would be totally contrary to what we have done throughout the past 12 years. We have contributed to the consolidation of democracy in El Salvador. Therefore, I reiterate that there is no plan to stage a coup within the Armed Forces. That is a thing of the past and there is no thought of conducting a coup d'etat. [Words indistinct] in the Armed Forces increased subordination to the country's legitimate powers.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, [words indistinct] the report that the FMLN is mobilizing [words indistinct]?

[Ponce] What has been revealed is the fact that the FMLN has not demobilized or disarmed, and that is why it has its fighters on a state of alert. I do not have the full information but [words indistinct].

[Reporter] [question indistinct]

[Ponce] They are doing everything. They are making a last- ditch efforts in view of the imminent demobilization and disarmament of their fighters. [end recording]

FMLN Leader Says Organization on 'Alert'

PA2811022892 San Salvador Canal Seis Television in Spanish 1830 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Nidia Diaz [the alias of Maria Concepcion Valladares de Sosa], a commander of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN], has confirmed that her organization is on a state of alert in view of rumors that the Armed Forces are preparing a coup d'etat in 48 hours.

Since the night of 26 November, the FMLN has been on a state of alert in the event of a possible coup d'etat, said Commander Nidia Diaz. She added the FMLN has strong indications that sectors which are opposed to the peace process, particularly the purge of the Army, are plotting against the government.

[Begin Diaz recording] Preparations are under way for the next 48 to 72 hours for a situation that will entail changing the current situation in the country, some sort of a coup, that the extreme rightist sectors are promoting. Sectors from the Armed Forces and private enterprise are involved in this. [end recording]

Diaz said that the demobilized fighters and even some who remain at the concentration zones are on alert. The main motive for the coup d'etat might be the decision that President Alfredo Cristiani will have to make this weekend against the military involved in cases of human rights violation.

[Begin Diaz recording] The idea is that the administrative purge measures that should be taken within the next few days, as well as the conclusion of the peace agreements as scheduled, will be implemented. Therefore, the movement would be against those two things: The implementation of the purge and the conclusion of the peace agreements, which would entail a destabilizing situation in the country. [end recording]

Commander Nidia Diaz said that the peace process currently is in a sensitive phase: either the agreements are complied with, or the entire process is lost.

FMLN Commander on Possible Salvadoran Coup

PA2911035292 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] Salvador Samayoa, Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] commander, confirmed that the FMLN has received information from reliable sources on a planned coup d'etat against President Cristiani's government within the next 48 hours. Here is what Commander Samayoa said:

[Begin Samayoa recording] If President Cristiani can guarantee the people, that is the society as a whole, that either that situation does not exist or that he can control it, we applaud this. The FMLN directorate simply considered it its duty, given the specific information we have, [words indistinct] to alert all the sectors. [end recording]

At the same time, the FMLN representative censured the attempted coup against Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, who was surprised, once again, by that nation's Armed Forces.

[Begin Samayoa recording] I believe coups should not even be attempted. The military from all of Latin America should understand, once and for all, that they are not the arbitrators nor are they the guarantors of the democratic systems. Therefore, the nation's problems should only be solved politically. [end recording]

Samayoa said that democracies, in any part of the world and particularly in Latin America, should be protected, not only by the politicians but also by the people.

25 Prisoners Escape During Attack on La Mariona

PA2711202392 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1615 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Report by Balmore Parada]

[Excerpt] Preliminary reports issued by La Mariona prison officials indicate the attack on the prison at approximately 0645 killed one person, injured 10—including one policeman—and permitted the escape of more than 25 prisoners. The dead individual was a prisoner who was killed as he was escaping through the hole opened by a bomb thrown by unidentified individuals. Witnesses said approximately eight heavily armed men dressed in black staged the attack to permit the prisoners' escape. The prisoners rioted, but a group of riot policemen established control of the situation. This is what a policeman guarding the prison reported:

[Begin recording] [unidentified policeman] It began in the southwest sector.

[Unidentified reporter] Can you tell us how the attack occurred? What types of weapons did they use?

[Policeman] Heavy caliber weapons and grenades.

[Reporter] Were there casualties?

[Policeman] I do not know. I do know that a fellow policeman was injured. I do not know anything else.

[Reporter] Were prisoners able to escape?

[Policeman] Yes, we know that some were able to escape, but we cannot tell you how many.

[Reporter] How long did the attack last?

[Policeman] I could not tell you exactly, but it lasted approximately 30 minutes.

[Reporter] Was the objective to help prisoners escape?

[Policeman] I think that was the objective.

[Reporter] How many people staged the attack?

[Policeman] I could not say how many, but there was shooting from different directions.

[Reporter] Are you the only ones who guard this prison?

[Policeman] We are the only ones since the peace process began. The troops have been withdrawn. We policemen are the only ones here.

[Reporter] What specific sector was attacked?

[Policeman] The southwestern sector.

[Reporter] How long did it last?

[Policeman] I repeat, about 30 minutes. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Prison Director Denies Escape of Colombians

PA2811171592 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] Francisco Garay Pineda, director of the penal centers of El Salvador, ruled out the possibility that during the attack perpetrated on 27 November against the La Mariona Prison, Colombian drug traffickers escaped.

On the morning of 27 November, 28 prisoners escaped during a surprise attack by a group of unidentified individuals with various weapons. The attack also left one dead and 11 injured among the inmates.

Pineda Garay stated the investigations will determine the origin of the attack, adding that the attack was aimed at liberating the prisoners.

Government, FMLN Make Accusations

PA2911031092 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] General Rene Emilio Ponce, the defense minister, said that the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] was responsible for the attack launched today against La Mariona Prison, the result of which was 28 escaped inmates and one dead. Gen. Ponce came right out and said that FMLN members are most probably the individuals responsible for the attack. Here is what Gen. Ponce said:

[Ponce] "You must recall that the FMLN urban commandos are not concentrated and that there are still FMLN weapons outside the concentration areas. This is why we believe... [pauses] we are almost certain, that this is part of the FMLN strategy as a show of strength. This is the reason for the attack on La Mariona Prison."

[Announcer] Meanwhile, General Juan Orlando Cepeda, the deputy defense minister, went even further in stating that if FMLN responsibility in the aforementioned attack can be verified, the action could be interpreted as breaking the cease-fire.

[Cepeda] "This attack on the prison is a very negative signal. This could be interpreted as a breaking of the cease-fire as it has all the characteristics of a subversive attack."

[Announcer] While dismissing FMLN statements claiming that the Armed Forces is preparing a coup d'etat, Gen. Ponce said that such action would be contrary to all the efforts that have been made by the Armed Forces to consolidate democracy during the years of conflict.

According to Ponce these are rumors with which the FMLN attempts to justify its refusal to demobilize.

[Ponce] "They are attempting anything they can; this is simply their last-ditch effort as they are faced with their military structure's imminent demobilization and disarmament. No one here is thinking about staging a coup, rather, the goal is for even further submission of the Armed Forces to the nation's legitimate power."

[Announcer] With regard to the foiled coup staged in Venezuela on 27 November, the high ranking military officers rejected the action while they pointed out that instead of carrying out these actions the Latin American democracies should be strengthened.

Meanwhile, Gerson Martinez, member of the FMLN political committee, denied the Armed Forces high command presumption that urban commandos had attacked La Mariona Prison. Gerson added that the urban commandos are concentrated in El Paisnal, in Guazapa, and in the eastern region. According to Gerson Martinez, this is a new political and military maneuver by the Armed Forces to accuse urban commandos of the attack on La Mariona Prison during which some inmates escaped.

[Martinez] "In my opinion, Mr. Ponce and those who have accused the FMLN will have to present evidence of these charges. In the third place [as heard], in my opinion, it is highly suspicious that these gentlemen come out in public to accuse the FMLN so quickly without having any evidence. It is highly suspicious and I am inclined to consider this as a self-attack in an attempt to generate confusion and cause delays in the fulfillment of the peace process."

[Announcer] Gerson Martinez confirmed that the FMLN urban commandos—approximately 125, the situation of which has been verified by Onusal [UN Observers for El Salvador]—are concentrated at camps at Guazapa, El Paisnal, and in San Salvador's eastern region.

[Martinez] "All the FMLN urban commandos are concentrated, totally under control, and under UN control."

[Announcer] Gerson Martinez participated in the march staged by the FMLN on some of the main streets of the capital, marking the 12th anniversary of the murder of six Revolutionary Democratic Front leaders.

Escape Attributed to 'Narcoterrorists'

PA2911134892 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 28 Nov 92 pp 5,23

[Text] The [La Mariona prison] attack, which originally was attributed to the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN], took place at approximately 0645. A group of men armed with Soviet made AK-47 rifles, M-16 rifles, and mortars got out of a vehicle and attacked the eastern side of La Mariona prison. Expert police officers confirmed that the operation had all the characteristics of past terrorist attacks against the penitentiary.

Those who live near the prison said the group was comprised of approximately 15 men, some of whom wore black uniforms. Others were half naked; all carried military equipment.

The attackers fired at the guards and placed an explosive charge at the southern side of the prison. When the explosion went off, a hole was blasted open in the wall, through which several inmates escaped.

The escaped inmates boarded the vehicle and headed north, where a "Cherokee" jeep was waiting. They fled in this vehicle. Meanwhile, part of the group of armed men kept firing at the prison guards to cover the escapees.

A woman who was selling tortillas near the prison said: "I put myself in the hands of god. I ran to find my children and hid them behind the walls. We heard explosions, but I do not know what else happened."

At approximately 0700, reinforcements arrived from the National Riot Police Section and a helicopter flew over the area.

An inmate, identified as Mauricio Gonzalez Rodriguez, 25, died when he attempted to escape through the hole in the wall blasted open by the explosion.

The following inmates were injured: Oscar Nolasco, 17; Nelson David Palomares, 28; Norman Danilo Serrano, 19; Ricardo Quezada, 25; Julio Quintanilla, 23; Edgar Ulises Sierra, 19; Salvador Ortega 20; Hernan Cruz Ventura, 28; and two prison guards. All were taken to Rosales Hospital.

Relatives of the inmates looking for information regarding the injured surrounded the ambulances as they arrived.

Inside the prison, inmates threw rocks at the guards; a rebellion was feared. But the rebellion attempt promoted by accomplices of the escapees did not succeed.

Visits were suspended in the afternoon to count the inmates and to determine the number and identity of the escapees.

At least one of the escapees was identified as "Freddy" Comandari, accused of drug and weapons trafficking and counterfeiting.

According to inmate reports, Comandari is the only inmate with enough money to pay for an escape like this one because he has contacts with international narcoterrorists and has been linked in recent years to local terrorist groups.

The Justice Ministry or prison officials were to issue a communique on 27 November but it was impossible to contact them. According to telephone operators at that ministry, Justice Minister Rene Hernandez Valiente was not taking any calls. The employees in charge of taking calls were in a hurry to leave before 1600 as it was

Friday. EL DIARIO DE HOY reporters had to contact other sources to bring the news to its readers.

Guatemala

Mendez Claims Government Pressuring Courts

PA2511160592 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 24 Nov 92 p 8

[Text] Amilcar Mendez, leader of the "Runujel Junam" Ethnic Communities Council, said on 24 November the government is pressuring the jurisdictional court in El Quiche Department to implicate him in a criminal case.

"I was released on bail, but the legal process will continue normally. I am afraid the Attorney General's Office and other government authorities will interfere with the court in an attempt to incriminate me in illegal actions," he added.

Mendez said "the charges filed against me are the result of political manipulation, to the point that two peasants are being forced to say I gave them bombs, which I never did."

In explaining the way in which the state is interfering with the court, Mendez said that on 22 November, when he was rendering his deposition, he counted more than five calls from Acting Attorney General Edgar Tuna Valladares complaining "because there were too many people present."

He added that prior to his arrival in El Quiche, the regional military commander sent a report to the Presidency and the Government Ministry. "I am afraid they could try to harm me despite the great international support I have," he added.

"The charges filed against me should be viewed within the human rights context, which at this time is the most debated and controversial issue in Guatemala. Coincidentally, a campaign is being orchestrated against human rights activists alone," he noted.

Mendez stressed he will present all the necessary evidence to prove his innocence, because he has never delivered any bomb to anyone and has never been linked to the guerrillas.

Minister Explains Arrest Warrant

PA2811171392 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 25 Nov 92 p6

[Text] Government Minister Francisco Perdomo stated the arrest warrant for Amilcar Mendez upon his return from the United States was carried out as the court had ordered. Evidence of this, he said, is the fact that he was presented to the First Appeal Court in Quiche, which issued the order.

As for the so-called "gentlemen's agreement" with the U.S. Embassy, he explained it was done to prevent presenting a "show" of foreign interests. He stated some people wanted the security forces to act forcefully, and in this manner, have arguments for accusing Guatemala abroad.

However, Perdomo added, from the moment Amilcar Mendez stepped off the plane to the moment he went to the court in Quiche, he was under the surveillance and custody of the security forces. He was arrested for the purpose of presenting him in court, the minister said, and this was achieved.

U.S. 'Intervention' Viewed

PA2511165592 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 24 Nov p 10

[Editorial: "The Law Must Not Be Subject to Agreements"]

[Text] Statements by Guatemalan Government officials continue to cause surprise and astonishment, and many times are the main source for criticism against the government. The most recent case occurred on 23 November, when Arturo Alvarado, the public relations secretary of the presidency, said that there was a "gentlemen's agreement" with the U.S. Embassy not to arrest Almicar Mendez, the leader of the "Runujel Juman" Ethnic Communities Council [CERJ], when he arrived at the airport.

As reported earlier, the government announced its intention to arrest Mendez upon his return from a trip to the United States, and accuse him of collaborating with the guerrillas. More specifically, he was to be charged with giving terrorist bombs to several people who had been arrested by the authorities. They were also charged by the Army as being members of the CERJ. As a result of this agreement, two U.S. Embassy vehicles carried Mendez to El Quiche Department to appear before the judge who had ordered the arrest.

His arrival in Guatemala caused expectation, because it was learned that Mendez would be accompanied by a New York congressman, the vice president of the leftist group Americas Watch, several attorneys and human rights advisers. According to the government's spokesman, the presence of these U.S. officials and visitors was reason enough to replace the intention to arrest Mendez with the aforementioned "gentlemen's agreement."

It would be interesting to see how Washington would react if Guatemalan Government officials were to arrive in the U.S. capital to come to a "gentlemen's agreement" with the FBI in order to prevent an arrest ordered by that country's courts. The Guatemalans most certainly would not have attained their objective, no matter what justification they might have had. Mexico or France, just to mention two other examples, would never allow what happened in Guatemala.

This is a matter of respect for the dignity of other countries. There is no legal justification for such intervention. The whole matter, of course, is related to other issues, the most important being that it was a known fact that the Guatemalan Government would make the arrest as punishment for the things Mendez has reported—many cases of human rights violations—which have proved to be very important background information for U.S. Embassy pressure in this very sensitive area.

It is important to stress that in presenting these considerations, we are not assuming the guilt or innocence of Mr. Mendez. We are simply trying to point out that the U.S. Embassy's position clearly violates the most basic provisions of international law, as well as Guatemalan sovereignty. Whatever the case may be, if the embassy was interested in following this issue closely, it should have informed the government that it feared for the safety of the accused, or put a team of attorneys at his disposal. The case was well known all over the country and was the subject of international press interest. For this reason alone, any action against Mendez would not have been able to go beyond the law.

The law cannot be negotiable. Its application must be general. The Mendez case constitutes a very negative precedent. As of now, any Guatemalan citizen can ask the U.S. Embassy for another similar gentlemen's agreement. Both parties are guilty, first, because of the intervention by foreign diplomats; and second, because of the lack of credibility in the way the Guatemalan Government administrates justice.

The U.S. Embassy in involved in a case of influence peddling, which, as we all know, is punished in other countries but is commonplace in Guatemala. This is a form of corruption not much different than others, such as a friend or relative of a high ranking official getting a similar "gentlemen's agreement," or someone buying one. This is how this case must be viewed, as it shows the sorrowful incapability of Guatemalan Government officials and the unacceptable attitude of the U.S. diplomats. This ironically occurs at the end of a Republican—and therefore conservative—administration. What will happen when the liberal Democrats arrive? The time will surely come when President Serrano longs for the days when [U.S. Ambassador] Thomas Strook was here.

Government, Army Deny Involvement in Mack Murder

PA2711205692 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 26 Nov 92 p 6

[Text] Guatemala, November 26 1992. The government and the Army rejected allegations made by Human Rights Ombudsman Ramiro De Leon Carpio related to the security forces being responsible for the murder of [archaeologist] Mirna Mack Chang.

Public Relations Secretary Arturo Alvarado stated that the ombudsman is referring to an incident that took place during the past administration. The incident, therefore, cannot be attributed to the present administration, which was in no way involved.

The case remains to be resolved by the courts of justice, where it is being handled by a private prosecutor. All official actions allowed in a case such as this have been observed.

Concerning the present government's involvement, Mr. Alvarado added, the Attorney General's Office has intervened in the case. This is being done by the new administration, although the crime was committed during a previous government.

Defense Minister Jose Domingo Garcia Samayoa pointed out that when the human rights ombudsman refers to "security forces" he undoubtedly refers to the National Police, since the Army has no information concerning the Mirna Mack case.

Samayoa stated that a service member is undoubtedly involved in the crime but that he had carried it out on his own, not as a part of the Armed Forces, which is completely uninvolved in his private conduct. The person charged with the murder is under the jurisdiction of the courts that are in no way involved with the Army.

Garcia Samayoa said it is not true that there is an Army "file" from which, according to Human Rights Ombudsman De Leon Carpio, the order originated for the investigation of the case to be discontinued. According to the defense minister, no such "file" exists.

Honduras

President Previews Rio Group Summit Trip

PA2711214492 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1630 GMT 25 Nov 92

[News conference by Honduran President Rafael Leonardo Callejas with unidentified local reporters at the National Institute of Professional Training—live]

[Text] [Reporter] President Callejas, what can you tell us about your trip to Buenos Aires, Argentina, for the Rio Group Summit at which you will represent Central America? When are you leaving and what will you discuss there?

[Callejas] Every year, in accordance with a previously agreed schedule, one of the Central American presidents represents the region at the Rio Group meeting. This meeting is to be held in Buenos Aires this time and I will represent the Central American region as an observer. As I understand, these are political meetings to learn of the activities and initiatives that the Rio Group undertakes within the framework of its relations with its member nations. However, they invite Central America and the Caribbean countries, so we can start incorporating ourselves into the new paths of the economic and political blocs in our region.

[Reporter] What are the chances at the meeting for increasing trade with Central America and mainly with Honduras?

[Callejas] That topic is not included in the Rio Group meeting's agenda. That topic will be discussed at the meeting with the Group of Three—Venezuela, Mexico, and Colombia—which has been postponed as per Mexico's request.

[Reporter] President Callejas, regarding the privatization of the National Institute of Professional Training [INFOP], apparently there are already definite plans for this. Could this be a reality in 1993?

[Callejas] I hope so. Once the representatives of the private sector, workers, and businessmen, as well as the INFOP worker unions reach a concerted agreement, the government is willing to have the totality of the administration transferred to the bidding sectors.

[Reporter] In your speech, you spoke of a real economic growth of 4.3 percent for 1992, and over 5 percent in 1993. How do you think that will benefit the people? Will it cause an economic recovery for middle and poor class families?

[Callejas] I spoke about that during my speech. The numbers from the INFOP are very clear. Since the INFOP's income, which is one percent of the payrolls, has doubled, it means that what the INFOP has received from the employees surpassed 1.890 million [currency not specified] in 1989, to 4.200 million in 1992. There are two ways of achieving this, either there has been an increase in the salaries, or an increase in the amount of jobs.

If this is to an increase in the salaries, it would mean that the employees who pay the INFOP have increased their salaries by 220 percent. This is not so. However, there has been a clear growth and these numbers are very precise. Therefore, the economic growth is evidenced in more jobs and better living conditions, as the purchasing power recovers more and more.

[Reporter] What do you have to say about criticism from those who say that this economic growth does not benefit the population and that housewives, for instance, see everything more expensive every day?

[Callejas] That is an opinion. The government has to try to convince the citizens that it is not so. A while ago, I was reviewing some numbers. After there was an increase in the prices of some products, in March of 1991, 1990, and to this date, the increase in the price of chicken has been one percent. Therefore, it is a matter of appreciation. But the fact is, according to numbers from the Honduran Social Security Institute and the INFOP, over 100,000 jobs have been created and this is a palpable benefit, because inasmuch as it may be true that life is more expensive, it is also true that more jobs have been created. And it is better that some persons have jobs than be unemployed. Therefore it is a matter of viewing the facts with regard to what we see in the statistics and what the citizens see, and we have to convince the citizens that the country's economy is indeed growing, recovering, and strong. We have some very precise numbers in that regard. However, those numbers are not subject to public debate, the only thing debated by the public is the negative point of the process which, admittedly, is specifically the increase in prices. An increase that basically took place in 1990 and which, according to our numbers, became stable as of that date.

[Reporter] Mr. President, this 4 percent economic growth you have mentioned is scheduled for when next year?

[Callejas] From 1 January to 31 December.

[Reporter] President Callejas, many have criticized the reduction in fuel prices. Do you think the price of the family basket will be reduced?

[Callejas] The prices of some products go up, others go down. But since some things are criticized because the prices go up and other things are criticized because their prices go down, it makes no sense for us to discuss this topic.

What I have promised is that when the price of petroleum goes down, we will transfer that reduction to the consumers. If the consumer does not like the reduction, because you say it is not good, then I am worried ....

[Reporter interrupting] Will the price continue to drop?

[Callejas] If the worldwide price of petroleum continues to drop, our fuel prices will continue to be reduced, but the reduction could be just one cent or three cents [currency not specified], it all depends on how much the price of the barrel drops. If the barrel's price drops 10 cents on the international market, the price of fuel could drop here by 50 cents of a lempira, if it drops by one cent it will drop here by 6 cents of a lempira. But as long as we do not accept that as a rule, the government will continue to become frustrated. I honestly say this, because this represents a loss of income for us, and if we do not reduce the price of fuel because you think it is too small a reduction, I could use those six million lempiras to pave streets in Tegucigalpa. I could keep that income, but I have a commitment to the Honduran people with regard to passing the reduction to the oil prices to the consumers.

I was the first one to be surprised when some media started a debate with regard to the reduction in the price of fuel. Why do you not just announce it and let the consumer go to the gas stations, realize he is paying less, and decide whether he wants the price to be reduced or maintained. When you decide it is too little and do not take into account the international prices, I wonder why the media assume that critical attitude? If there is a reduction in the price, what is so bad about that? I do not understand what is so bad about a reduction. If it is not the reduction you would like, that is caused by a problem

in Kuwait, Venezuela, or Mexico, but not by a problem in Honduras, and that is something that we must learn to do. The price of oil, from now on, will move up or down, by 5 or 10 percent, at the most, in accordance with the international prices and this will be done every month according to the average of the international prices.

[Reporter] Mr. President, what are your government's intentions in the second stage of the efforts to reach a concerted agreement by gathering businessmen, bankers, stock-breeders, and the workers sectors? Another question is: What efforts has your government undertaken for recovering Morat Island?

[Callejas] We agreed to ... [break in reception] As you know, every month there is a meeting at the Presidential House of the Presidential Commission for the Modernization of the State. All the sectors of society are represented at that commission. Therefore, when there is talk about a new concerted agreement... [pauses] My government's concerted efforts are permanent. We reached a concerted agreement for education, as you may remember, we recently obtained an extraordinary success by being able to gather the interests of all the sectors in the country in the search of the state's modernization. We reached a concerted agreement concerning the reform of the Legislative Branch with regard to the Judicial Branch, we reached a concerted agreement to improve the public administration. You are witnesses. Thus, you should not be surprised by my meeting with some sector to discuss topics that do not necessarily have to be the concerted effort.

At the meeting I held with the businessmen and the workers, I told them that we are not there to reach a concerted agreement, but to decide whether there is, in their opinion, something the government could do to help improve the government's economic program with regard to some details. But it is not a new concerted effort, and I was surprised because you come once a month to the fifth floor of the Presidential House, shoot some film for television, get interviews every Tuesday, and then you ask me about a new concerted effort. We make concerted efforts every month and you are the best witnesses.

[Reporter] What about Morat Island?

[Callejas] There is a resolution from Congress with regard to Morat Island, and I hope the attorney general of the Republic will act as soon as possible in accordance with that resolution.

[Reporter] During this last meeting with the private enterprise, did you convince the businessmen that they are mistaken about the adjustments?

[Callejas] The businessmen have different options and proposals. We did not talk about that. We just reported the country's actual numbers and we asked them to help prepare the transition and prepare themselves for the future, because the main foundation of the country's economic growth at this stage is the public sector, but that will change as of 1994 and there will have to be more action from the private sector. They stated some of their concerns with regard to some of the public services—the electric company and the national ports enterprise—and the workers sector stated its concern for the improvement of the lempira's purchasing power. Those were the issues we discussed and we will have another meeting on 17 December to learn more about their proposals.

The impression I got from the sectors that met with me, is that they support the program for the country's economic transformation towards a free market economy.

[Reporter] Are you worried by the poll's results? All polls say your party is loosing the elections.

[Callejas] I am not worried. The National Party of Honduras will win the elections in 1993.

[Reporter] How will it win?

[Callejas] With votes.

[Reporter] Since 1993 is election year, it is expected that you will make some changes that may affect the Honduran people...

[Callejas interrupting] That is something that I have not even thought about.

[Reporter] Mr. President, Deputy Hector (Lucio Damero) has charged that the supervisor of Paraiso Department is trafficking with the jobs for teachers. What will your government do about this?

[Callejas] We will look into the charges. The education minister is also here. You can interview him on that regard.

Nicaragua

Chamorro Sends Message of Support to Perez

PA2711201392 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1853 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] President Violeta Chamorro condemned the coup attempt to topple Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez and to violate the constitutional order of that Latin American nation. President Chamorro sent a message to President Carlos Andres Perez after she learned of the coup attempt. The message stated:

My Dear Carlos Andres: I have just found out that undemocratic groups have again tried to destroy Venezuela's constitutional order. The Nicaraguan people and Government, which I represent, will continue to accompany and support you in your struggle to defend constitutional order, the law, and the democratic ideals of the Venezuelan people.
As always, your friend, Violeta Barrios de Chamorro

UDC Sends Venezuelan Copei 'Solidarity' Message

PA2811193192 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2200 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] The Nicaraguan Christian Democratic Union [UDC] sent a message of solidarity to Venezuela's Social Christian Party [Copei] regarding the latest attacks by left-wing military coupists against the Venezuelan constitutional government led by Carlos Andres Perez. Here are comments by UDC's Dr. Roger Miranda Gomez:

[Begin recording] [Miranda] The UDC is sending a communique to Copei's secretary general in Venezuela, offering our solidarity to Christian Democracy and in defense of the Venezuelan democratic institutionality, which once again suffered a coup attempt by sectors that have repeatedly tried to shatter Venezuela's constitutional order by trying to dislodge President Perez from power. We, therefore, consistent with Christian Democracy, close ranks in defense of the decisions that all democratic forces represent for Latin America. We need to defend and consolidate democracy and freedom in Latin America and not allow room for adventurers to break this order and set back Latin America's history.

[Unidentified reporter] Dr. Roger Miranda, what are the causes of Venezuela's problems? It is said to be the corruption of previous administrations—both by Copei and President Carlos Andres Perez' party.

[Miranda] In an atmosphere with guaranteed freedom, such as freedom of expression, it is only normal that all sorts of positions and statements arise regarding the causes and consequences of what is happening. What is true is that the complexity of the social and political problems in these times of change, particularly the new positions in connection with the world economy, have made countries that export raw materials, such as Latin American countries, suffer these coups. These countries do not have the capacity to neutralize them with the same efficiency as developing countries with greater resources. Nevertheless, what has been repeatedly the Christian Democracy stance, in Venezuela and other countries, particularly in Nicaragua, is that these problems are not solved by disrupting the democratic institutionality. Quite the contrary: It is by consolidating democratic order, by establishing the rules of the game, by permanently defending civic ways, and using dialogue to seek solutions to these problems. Do not make the mistake of coupist adventurism—the irresponsibility of populist demagogic sectors—that try to convince people that it is through messianic and enlightened groups that these problems, which are very complicated, are to be solved. It is precisely now, when this message is being sent to Venezuela's Copei—which reiterates our posture of solidarity in defense and support to all those political and social organizations in any country of the world—that we set out and defend this principle. There is no way of solving complex problems through irresponsible and demagogic formulas.

[Reporter] What importance do you give to the administrative corruption that has been reported in Venezuela from one administration to the other?

[Miranda] This is normal; all countries are affected. It is not through dictatorial or antidemocratic solutions that this problem is solved. We are living in these countries with a budding democratic institutionalized process and the way to punish and correct these violations is through actions, not only by state institutions, but by citizens in a civilian society through courts established by law. These, in turn, carry out the sanctions whenever these irregularities occur.

Chamorro Unafraid of Military, Police Rebellion

PA2911044692 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 28 Nov 92 p 5

[Text] President Violeta Chamorro stated on 27 November that she does not fear a military or police rebellion although "I might fear a rebellion instigated by any of the many hotheads that are going around the country. That is why I have the Army so that any rebellion promoted by hotheads does not take place".

President Chamorro's statements were in reply to questions from foreign journalists on fears that what took place in Venezuela could also happen in Nicaragua.

Immediately after swearing in the newly appointed National Review Commission, President Chamorro proceeded to condemn the incidents that took place in the South American nation. She also disclosed the content of a letter she sent to her Venezuelan colleague Carlos Andres Perez expressing her support. A few minutes before the swearing-in ceremony, the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry had issued a communique rejecting the coup attempt and expressing Nicaraguan support for the Perez administration.

To Chamorro, what took place is "a subversive move against democracy". When she made her statements at 1100, President Chamorro had still not been able to contact the Venezuelan president, although she had contacted the Nicaraguan ambassador in Caracas who promised he would deliver her message to the president.

In reference to the EPS [Sandinist Popular Army] troops deployed throughout Managua, President Chamorro pointed out "it is going to continue because since Lucio (Jimenez) [National Workers Front secretary general] says the strike is going to be indefinite, therefore I must protect you (addressing the reporter) in order for them not to harm you".

She pointed out that in every country the military is needed in order for the laws to be carried out. "I have seen it in Mexico when there is a strike, the military deployed to protect the country as well as the people."

Chamorro rejected the wage increase demands because "how is it possible to be talking about wage increases when there is no money? We would have money if they

decided to work. Do you not find it just appalling what those boys on strike are doing at the hospitals against the Nicaraguan people? Do you not reproach that?" Chamorro asked.

She denied that her government is unwilling to negotiate with the FNT [National Workers Front]. According to Chamorro "now they are arguing that we do not want to talk to them. Is it not that they simply do not want to understand?"

With respect to the UNO [National Opposition Union] parties refusal to dialogue with the government, President Chamorro stated that they were invited but they did not show up. According to the president, "that is an entirely different matter".

Considering the forthcoming religious festivities in honor of the Virgin Mary and the Christmas holidays, Chamorro said that "those of us who are Catholic, must appeal to the Virgin to grant us respect for our fellow brothers, that we may have a happy year end, and that we may be able to shake hands in order for 1993 to be a better year than 1992."

With respect to changes in her cabinet of ministers, Chamorro stipulated that "in every country of the world, every democracy, changes take place. No one is stuck with crazy glue."

Cesar Explains National Assembly Decree

PA2711205792 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1100 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] The Supreme Court has caused much confusion as a result of a ruling that was announced after 22 months. According to this ruling and an analysis by National Assembly legal advisers, the Supreme Court has canceled the new statutes governing the National Assembly and reinstated the previous ones. The old statutes, for example, state that deputies who are absent for more than 30 days without justified cause will be suspended. The new statutes, instead, allow 90 days. The lawyers said on 25 November that this means the National Assembly Board of Directors does not have to wait until 2 December to apply the suspension sanction because it could do so today.

Engineer Alfredo Cesar expressed his points of view during a news conference in which he explained the Supreme Court decision, which may give some insight on just how they will decide on the writ of amparo presented by Sergio Ramirez and his group. According to Cesar, the Supreme Court ruling abolishes the current statutes and brings back into effect the previous ones, which even grant more powers to the Board of Directors.

[Begin Cesar recording, in progress] ...second effect: In view that Law 26 is currently in effect with all its articles. There is an article regarding deputy absences that is even more stringent than the ones in the new statute. Law 26 says that if a deputy is absent for more than 30 days from his parliamentary duties without the permission of the Board of Directors, he commits a definite misdemeanor and loses his appointment as representative. This obviously means that those who have abandoned their parliamentary obligations for more than 60 days, and following the Supreme Court's definite ruling....[pauses] The National Assembly Board of Directors is going to meet this week to determine which representatives will lose their appointments as deputies, according to Law 26, which continues in force.

Regarding the Board of Directors' term, given that this is a National Assembly decision, it was modified by the new statute. The Board of Directors' term continues to be two years, however, and expires in January 1993. On 9 January, elections will be held for a new board of Directors. This new board will take office for a period of two years. This is in accordance with the Supreme Court ruling.

I will now take questions. The Assembly Board of Directors is empowered under Law 16 to declare a definite misdemeanor in the case of representatives who have been absent for more than 30 days without its approval. Before the end of the week, the Board of Directors will convene and decide who will lose their representation as deputies, and this will be made public. [end recording]

UNAG, Government Commission To Review Land Deeds

PA2711035092 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Report by Roger Oliva]

[Text] Some of the agreements reached at the meeting between government cabinet members and directors of the National Union of Farmers and Cattlemen, UNAG, begin the land property deed process for thousands of peasant families and the review of abuses during the transition period.

After a seven hour meeting, the UNAG and the government decided to form a joint commission, in coordination with the Office for Territorial Organization, OOT, to give assurances to the peasants who were awarded land during the government transition period under the agrarian reform process.

[Begin Boanerges Matus, deputy director of the Nicaraguan Agrarian Reform Institute, recording] The broad consensus is for citizens who committed abuses under the protection of certain laws and transition property deeds. This must correct those abuses and form a land bank that will permit us to satisfy the sectors that demand land. We think that this is very helpful and we believe this will have a totally positive outcome for the country's problems and especially for the country's stability. [end recording]

Cooperative movement representative Ariel Bucardo called on peasants who benefited by the agrarian reform to be more at ease.

[Begin Bucardo recording] Even though we have experienced great unrest because we were told that agrarian reform land deeds were going to be reviewed by the OOT, we agreed today that no peasant will be made to present his deed nor will his property rights be reviewed by any office. Instead, as Minister Matus announced, a mechanism between us and the National Institute for Agrarian Reform [INRA] will be sought through a commission. [end recording]

Bucardo pointed out that they agree the government should make an exhaustive review of the abuses, using illegal land distribution, committed during the transition period protected under Law 88. The start of a land deed issuance process for thousands of families was announced. At this moment, these families only have the land they actually occupy as proof of ownership. It was learned that the government will give INRA 5 million cordobas to carry out the land deed process. Both sides broached the topic of credit. The UNAG will present proposals so that National Development Bank rural domestic credit may be awarded in certain municipalities.

[Begin Matus recording, in progress] ...is define a clearer economic policy to suit 1993—a more expeditious bank policy to allow all Nicaraguans access to medium and short-term credit for cattle-raising. [end recording]

At the meeting, the government promised to put an end to illegal lumber exploitation and to preserve the country's ecology.

Minister Says Funds Must Arrive Prior to 31 Dec

PA2711215592 Managua Radio Ya in Spanish 1100 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Text] Erwin Kruger, minister of foreign cooperation, on 25 November said that if the $100 million withheld by the U.S. Government do not reach Nicaragua before the 31 December deadline, the country would be unable to pay its obligations to the IMF, maintain its estimated level of reserves, repay loans, or amortize its foreign debt.

Minister Kruger also said that these needs are being met temporarily through a recently obtained stopgap loan.

Spain, Costa Rica To 'Clarify' Sequeira Murder

PA2811164392 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Report by Erica Ramirez in Managua]

[Text] The Government Ministry will request the cooperation of Spain and Costa Rica to clarify the murder of Dr. Arges Sequeira, according to Deputy Government Minister Ronald Aviles. Deputy Government Minister Aviles said the police only have a composite picture of the killer and three key witnesses, who are receiving protection.

[Begin recording] [Aviles] You can rest assured we are giving all the support we can to the key witnesses in Mr. Sequeira's case. People claim they were arrested, but they are only being held at a police station to protect them—because they are key witnesses.

[Unidentified reporter] How many witnesses?

[Aviles] There are three. [end recording]

He said the border posts with Costa Rica and Honduras have been reinforced.

[Begin Aviles recording] The killers are presumably in the country because, according to the information we have from Honduras and Costa Rica, they have not crossed the border. [end recording]

He also said the Sequeira family is cooperating and no one has officially requested U.S. support. The Government Ministry, however, will request support from the Costa Rican and Spanish police.

Sandinists Form Radio Association

PA2511141392 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Nov 92

[Text] The Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] is attempting to control the national media by forming an organization parallel to Associated Publicity Media [Medios Publicitarios Asociados] currently headed by the well-known radio station owner Fabio Gadea Mantilla.

During a meeting held on the afternoon of 23 November at the offices of Radio Universidad, the Sandinists formed a board of directors with 14 radio stations, all of them practically new and without any major national presence. Carlos Guadamuz, current director of Radio Ya, was appointed as president of the board of directors.

Conrado Pineda, director of the official radio station of the FSLN, was appointed as vice president, and Alan Teffel-Alba, director of Radio El Pensamiento, was appointed as secretary.

Another member of the board of directors of the Association of Radio Broadcasters [Asociacion de Radiodifusores] is the director of Radio FM BB Stereo, Radio Universidad, and Radio Rica. These last few do not have a national presence.

Radio Nicaragua, Radio Corporacion, Radio Catolica, Radio Noticias, Radio Mundial, Radio Canal 130, Radio Minutos, and Radio Istmo, as well as other Nicaraguan stations were invited to the meeting.

This way, the Sandinists seek to control, as much as possible, the radio spectrum as they did in the last decade when they were in the government and maintained censure on the press for many years.

Panama

Endara Spokesman on Coup Attempt in Venezuela

PA2711180192 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 1258 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Telephone interview with Presidential Press Secretary Rene Hernandez by Octavio Cogley—live]

[Text] [Cogley] The presidential spokesman will comment on President Endara's stance regarding developments in Venezuela.

[Hernandez] President Guillermo Endara's first reaction was to voice his rejection, total rejection, of the attempt by the military in Venezuela to topple or break constitutional order in that South American sister republic.

Early on 27 November, as soon as the president learned of the coup attempt in Venezuela, he tried to contact President Carlos Andres Perez. About 20 minutes ago, I talked to President Endara and he told me they have tried on several occasions but there is apparently a communications blockade, perhaps because of the large number of calls being made from various parts of the world.

The president is trying to contact his Venezuelan colleague to convey the solidarity of the Panamanian Government for the constitutional government of the sister Republic of Venezuela.

[Cogley] Has President Endara had any contact with the Venezuelan ambassador? Is he holding any meetings to adopt a position and later make an official statement on what is happening in Venezuela?

[Hernandez] He has spoken over the telephone with spokesmen from various organizations. I cannot say at this time whether President Endara has spoken to the Venezuelan ambassador in Panama. He has been receiving calls and making calls to learn more details about what is happening in Venezuela, because as you have pointed out, the situation, according to the media, is not yet clear. International press agency reports, however, have said the movement was suffocated in the Republic of Venezuela.

Communique Condemns Coup Attempt

PA2811212192 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 28 Nov 92 p 32

[Communique issued by the Panamanian Government in Panama City on 27 November]

[Text] The Panamanian Government expresses its most forceful condemnation of the latest coup attempt carried out in the sister Republic of Venezuela against constitutional President Carlos Andres Perez early in the morning of 27 November.

The Republic of Panama reaffirms its firm support for Venezuelan representative democracy, against which an attempt was made to interrupt its normal course, and joins the expressions of condemnation of the international community.

[Issued] Panama City, 27 November 1992

Cruz Accuses PTJ Chief of Espionage

PA2811021292 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 27 Nov 92 p 1

[Report by Orlando Mendieta C.]

[Text] Technical Judicial Police [PTJ] Director Jaime Abad currently maintains an operations center that undertakes an evaluation on the daily activities of government and opposition politicians, business groups, union activists, civilians and diplomatic corps members.

The information obtained by EL PANAMA AMERICA was confirmed on 26 November by Attorney General Rogelio Cruz during the National Assembly Drug Commission session that took place in Chiriqui Province. According to Cruz, Abad maintains a political espionage center led by Maximo Pinzon, a member of the former G-2 [Panama Defense Force intelligence section].

Information gathered by EL PANAMA AMERICA reveals that the evaluation is developed by the Data Processing Center [Ceproda] under the direction of the PTJ chief who receives a daily report classified as "confidential".

Surveillance operations include an evaluation of all political, labor, economic, and social activities that take place in the country. The same evaluation also includes a list with the names of the persons who participated in the activity.

Some of the organizations that appear in Ceproda reports include the Movement of the Colon Province Unemployed [Modesco], the National Central Organization of Panamanian Workers [CNTP], El Chorrillo Refugees Committee, the Office of the Attorney General, the Revolutionary Democratic Party [PRD], the U.S. Embassy, and the Panamanian Human Rights Committee [CPDH].

The persons mentioned in the evaluation report include Edberto Cobos, Hector Avila, Rogelio Cruz, Dario Selles, Roberto Troncoso, and Deane Hinton.

Ceproda also provides the PTJ director with a five point summarized version of the evaluation as well as possible course of action that could be followed by the organizations and personalities identified in the document.

The central offices of the intelligence group are located next to PTJ Director Abad's offices, and includes advanced computer equipment.

Likewise, it was disclosed that a house located in the San Francisco residential neighborhood, and at one time

owned by one of former General Manuel Antonio Noriega's daughters, was being used for undercover activities. However, the house was closed down on 25 November.

In addition, it was possible to learn that this type of evaluation was taking place without President Guillermo Endara's or the Public Security and National Defense Council's authorization and that after the closing of the house located in San Francisco, there are plans to open another center in Altos de Curundu.

On the other hand, "EL PANAMA AMERICA" was able to learn of the existence of another office that, concurrently with Ceproda, also undertakes telephone surveillance operations. This office is under the command of Detective Rafael Escudero Espinoza, who has been identified as Abad's cousin.

Assistant Prosecutor Heraclio Sanjur currently is carrying out investigations related to the possible existence of other political espionage offices controlled by the PTJ that specialize in using surveillance groups and telephone tapping.

Cruz Accuses

Meanwhile, on 26 November, Attorney General Cruz emphasized in Chiriqui that the last memorandums he sent to the PTJ chief were to bar him from continuing with political espionage activities.

During a session that lasted for nearly seven hours, the attorney general and District Attorney Emilio de Leon appeared before the National Assembly Drug Commission to respond to questions related to the alleged charges against the PTJ director as well as the irregularities by personnel assigned to the Office of the Attorney General in repressing drug trafficking in Chiriqui Province.

In a very tense setting, Cruz and Legislator Leo Gonzalez [president of the National Assembly Drug Commission] exchanged accusations and insults brought about by the differences that have arisen between the Office of the Attorney General and the PTJ.

Cruz accused Gonzalez of being Abad's "political godfather". On the other hand, Gonzalez believes that the political espionage charges are merely "another new story" by Cruz.

"Abad is a rebellious police officer that, because of political considerations, has turned to you to make charges against me", Cruz pointed out to Gonzalez. The legislator questioned Cruz on why he had not made the political espionage charges before a court of law, to which the attorney general answered that was a "disrespectful and inappropriate question".

De Leon Confirms Cover-Up

In the meanwhile, Chiriqui District Attorney Emilio de Leon presented evidence that allegedly confirms the cover-up cases involving PTJ Director Abad who favored PTJ provincial directors in Veraguas, Herrera, Bocas Del Toro, and Chiriqui.

According to De Leon, the objective of the cover-up activity was to condone drug trafficking and at the same time hinder investigations related to the involvement of PTJ agents in drug trafficking operations.

To Meet in Session Today

The Drug Commission is expected to meet in session today to allow any private individual who wishes to disclose information to the legislators on any irregularities carried out by the Office of the Attorney General in Chiriqui. The most prominent name to appear in the long list of persons who are expected to participate in the drug commission session, is that of former Special District Attorney Rodrigo Miranda Morales.

Editorial Views Clinton's Latin American Policy

PA2911042592 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 27 Nov 92 p 4-A

[Editorial: "Clinton and Latin America"]

[Text] President-elect Bill Clinton reaffirmed his willingness to continue implementing the Enterprise for the Americas, as presented by the Republican administration, which is aimed at forming a common market that will cover almost all the nations of America. In so doing, the president-elect has cleared the uncertainty about future relations with Latin America.

By promoting an economic program created by the Republicans, and ratifying the pro-Latin American vocation of former Democratic leaders, such as Franklin D. Roosevelt, who set forth the Good Neighbor policy, and John Kennedy, who created the Alliance for Progress and the Peace Corps, Clinton has shown that he is not a dogmatic or a partisan leader, but one who thinks and acts as a statesman seeking, above all, the unity of the American community.

Clinton told the international media that he plans to go further than Bush in implementing the Enterprise for the Americas. He did not specify what kind of trade programs he had in mind. He evidently has plenty of time ahead of him, though, to plan other options in addition to the NAFTA, in which the United States is committed to Mexico and Canada alone. He only went so far as to tell the international media that the Democratic government will support the NAFTA as long as certain adjustments are made and environmental protection measures are included for the areas along the border where large industrial facilities will be located, which follows the same direction set by the new government's congressional members.

It is gratifying to hear that a leader of the new U.S. generation foresees a new era of understanding with Latin countries in the fields of economy, politics, culture, and others.

Northern politicians, such as Clinton, are well aware that Latin America contributes and participates politically and economically in the development of North America. During these years of crisis and unease, due to the increasing decline, Hispanics, as our countrymen are referred to generically, have placed their bet on the future of the United States, contributing a significant share of labor and, especially, their zeal, their happy spirit, their joy of living, their faith in the revival of the North American splendor. How can a young president, with such an aware spirit, not compensate his citizens by strengthening their many historic origins?

PALA Expels Members for Forming New Party

PA3011031192 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 29 Nov 92 p 23

[Statement issued by the Labor Party; place and date not given]

[Text] In the face of a request by several citizens to register the Agrarian Labor Movement (Mola), the Electoral Tribunal has published the respective ads required for such action.

Reading these ads, we have been able to confirm that the persons making the petition to register the party include members of the Labor Party (PALA).

Some of them are members of the board of directors or are convention representatives. Others have been campaigning, within PALA ranks, pushing for a national convention. They have been engaged in these activities pretending to be PALA enthusiasts but it has now been confirmed that they are hypocrites. However, what is most shameful is that they have not resigned from PALA. Such actions go against political ethics and against every single rule on loyalty toward the party and fellow party members.

The citizens who committed this serious violation to the rule on ethics include: Carlos Eleta Almaran, Jeronimo Escala, Adilio J. de Gracia, Pedro Vallarino Cox, Enrique Victoria Arias, Luis A. Alvarado, Rodolfo Garcia de Paredes, Carlos A. Bonilla Garcia, Anel Abrego C., Abdiel A. Abrego, Demetrio Decerega T., Rebeca G. de Lopez, and Joaquin Villar Garcia.

It must be noted that these persons have been meeting with members of our party without disclosing their wicked intention to form another party.

In view of their censurable behavior, PALA expels them from its ranks in accordance with Article 92 of the Electoral Code and Article 25 (paragraph) of the PALA statutes.

The time has come for true PALA members to become more united to form a political alliance with political parties that share our ideals, parties that have a nationalist and democratic stand.

The people to power with PALA, the democratic and nationalist option!

Argentina

Reaction to Attempted Coup in Venezuela Noted

Solidarity Pledged to Government

PY2711122092 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1202 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Nov (TELAM)—Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella has expressed the Argentine Government's solidarity with Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez.

Di Tella told Radio America that Argentina "will urge all Latin American countries to implement political solidarity with Venezuela, as implemented during the February 1992 coup attempt."

He indicated that President Carlos Menem will call the Venezuelan president within the next few minutes to express personally the solidarity "of the Argentine people and government."

Communique Issued

PY2711145492 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1349 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Nov (NA)—The Argentine Government today energetically condemned the attempted coup d'etat in Venezuela, and it expressed its "most firm support" for Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez.

The communique that was disseminated this morning states:

"The Foreign Ministry wishes to express its most energetic condemnation of the events that have occurred in Venezuela that are an attack against the representative democratic system, the fundamental freedom of man, and the full respect for human rights.

"The Argentine Government pledges its firm support for the constitutional government of Venezuela and its (?legitimate authorities), and calls on the region's countries to most energetically condemn attempt to interrupt the institutional order of the sister nation of Latin America."

Foreign Minister Laments

PY2711201492 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1855 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Nov (TELAM)—Paraguayan Foreign Minister Alexis Frutos Vaesken today lamented the coup attempt in Venezuela because that country "has a longstanding democratic tradition" and stated that "conditions in the Americas are not conducive to the establishment of governments that have not been freely elected by the people."

Frutos added: "This morning we sent a telegram to President Carlos Andres Perez to convey our regret for what has happened, as well as our hope that democracy will be increasingly strengthened."

In remarks upon his arrival at the Aeroparque airport today, Frutos added: "Even if a military uprising succeeds in any country of the Americas, it will not be able to withstand the international and regional pressure exerted by democratic countries."

Frutos noted that the "Santiago Commitment," which was signed last year at an OAS meeting, established "a system of defense" and provided for the OAS "to call an urgent meeting and a general assembly, if necessary, to take the appropriate measures and to make every effort to restore democratic order if democratic stability had been undermined in any one country."

Frutos arrived here from Asuncion to attend with the Paraguayan president a Rio Group meeting that will be held in this capital next week.

Rio Group Condemns Events

PY2711190492 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1840 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Nov (NA)—The presidents of the Rio Group countries today "strongly condemned the grave events in Venezuela" and "deeply valued the sacrifice of civilians and soldiers who fell in defense of democracy."

The declaration signed by 11 Latin American presidents warned: "Any attempt to replace legitimately elected governments will become an unacceptable obstacle preventing progress in our nations."

The 11 presidents of the Rio Group will meet as of 1 December in this capital, except for Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez who informed the Argentine president that he will not be able to travel due to the coup attempt in his country.

Di Tella Comments on Rio Group Summit

PY2811023092 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2117 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 27 Nov (TELAM)—[passage omitted] Commenting on the topics Argentina will bring up for discussion at the summit, which will have an open agenda, Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella noted the Argentine interest in readmitting Peru into the group. Peru was excluded from the group earlier this year after the self-inflicted coup led by President Alberto Fujimori.

According to Di Tella, "conditions are now conducive for readmitting Peru into the group in light of the elections held in that country on 22 November, elections that were fully approved by the OAS." It is thus expected that Peru will be formally readmitted early next year.

Di Tella added that the presidents also will focus on topics such as "developments in the Venezuelan situation, the outcome of the Uruguay GATT Round, the prospects for Latin America following the victory of Bill Clinton in the U.S. election, and the situation in Haiti."

Di Tella also said another topic will be the nonproliferation policy, "on which there is full agreement; as well as the implementation of cooperation mechanisms to fight the drug trade, terrorism, and corruption."

Finally, Di Tella reported that the sixth Rio Group summit, which will be held at the Alvear Plaza, will not issue any document, unlike previous summits. He said: "At this time, only a brief statement will be released, and it will be President Menem who will disclose the conclusions of the summit."

Also attending the news conference with Di Tella was Eduardo Iglesias, director of the Foreign Ministry Department for Latin American Policy, who confirmed that 11 presidents will be attending the summit. They are the presidents of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Uruguay, Honduras, and Jamaica.

Presidential Helicopter Makes Emergency Landing

PY2711234892 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2158 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Excerpts] Chascomus, 27 November (NA)—The helicopter aboard which President Carlos Menem was travelling to Chascomus, a town in Buenos Aires Province, was forced to make an emergency landing in a field due to a technical malfunction. [passage omitted]

According to official sources, the failure was caused by an oil leak in the hydraulic system, which went unnoticed when the helicopter was checked before takeoff.

Only the Air Force was alerted to what happened to Menem right away, as the pilot informed it about the helicopter malfunction. Government House was notified of this more than half an hour later.

The Argentine Air Force Bell helicopter left the presidential palace at 1020 local time [1220 GMT]. Besides Menem, the following people were on board: the pilot, the navigator, Military Household Chief General Jorge Rearte, presidential physician Alejandro Tfeli, on-duty presidential aide-de-camp Commodore Testa, and chief bodyguard Guillermo Armentano. [passage omitted]

At exactly 1050 local time, the helicopter had to make an emergency landing in a field close to Highway No. 2, which links La Plata and Brandsen, in Etcheverry District.

The technical malfunction was first noticed earlier during the trip but the pilot felt that he could continue and was encouraged by General Rearte, an experienced paratrooper, and Commodore Testa, a pilot of proven courage.

The aircraft finally had to land, and the pilot reported the situation to Air Force headquarters, which ordered that a second helicopter be sent from El Palomar Air Base without notifying Government House.

For almost two hours a lot of worrying was done at the Olivos Presidential Residence, at Government House and at the Villa del Sur bottling plant the president was going to visit because for almost 30 minutes Menem's whereabouts were unknown because the Air Force did not relay the information it had. [passage omitted]

Joint Chiefs of Staff's Head Officially Leaves

PY2911205592 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 29 Nov 92 p 11

[From the "Argentina in Brief" column]

[Text] (DYN-NA)—Joint Chiefs-of-Staff head Brigadier General Andres Antonietti yesterday bade official farewell to the Army. He said he was leaving "without any ill feeling" and felt "grateful" for all the wonderful years he had spent in the forces. Antonietti, who through his close relationship with President Carlos Menem and his opposition to the purchase of 54 skyhawk fighters from the United States had had a rocky relationship with with successive defence ministers, said he was looking forward to a few days' rest before embarking on new projects. He refused to comment on suggestions that his early retirement was a victory for current Defence Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez. He described such questions as loaded and preferred to leave them unanswered. Antonietti is to be replaced by General Mario Candido Diaz on Monday [30 November].

Di Tella Reports Diplomatic Incident With Cuba

PY2711215792 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1943 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Nov (TELAM)—Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella today reported a diplomatic incident with Cuba in the wake of the arrest and sentencing of a Cuban citizen who asked for political asylum two months ago at the Argentine Embassy in Havana.

During a news conference organized to report on the next Group of Rio presidential summit, Di Tella criticized the event and demanded that the Cuban Government "fulfill the promise made to our embassy in Havana."

He said that "in May, Cuban citizen Osvaldo Dominguez Perez and members of his family sought refuge at the Argentine Embassy in that country."

"In the face of the guarantees high-ranking Cuban officials gave that Dominguez would not be arrested if he left the embassy building, Argentine officials convinced him to leave peacefully," Di Tella added.

He recalled that "in September, the Argentine Embassy was informed that in July, Dominguez was sentenced to

four years' imprisonment" for the aforementioned incident, for which reason "the Argentine Government began urgent diplomatic contacts, which so far have yielded no results."

Di Tella said the issue was raised before Ramon Sanchez Parodi, Cuban vice foreign relations minister during a visit he paid to Buenos Aires a few days ago.

Di Tella concluded by expressing his "deep displeasure and concern about the events," and demanded that the Cuban Government offer "a solution in keeping with the promise made during the first talk held at the Argentine Embassy in Havana."

PL Member Possessing Explosives in Custody

PY2511143092 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2101 GMT 24 Nov 92

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 24 Nov (TELAM)—The courts today issued a preventive custody writ against Oscar Kuperman, a Liberation Party (PL) member, and attached his goods for 10,000 pesos after determining that he was "criminally liable" for the possession of explosives and war materiel.

The ruling was issued by Federal Judge Maria Servini de Cubria. This afternoon she continued interrogating another three detainees who are suspected of being members of an alleged terrorist organization, within the framework of investigations to determine the origin of and motives for the recent bombings in our country.

After issuing the preventive custody writ against Kuperman, Servini de Cubria dedicated herself to interrogating Oscar Malvestiti, Mario Vera, and Carlos Alboniga, involved in a case classified as "storage of explosives and war materiel, classified illegal association for criminal purposes, public intimidation, damages, and injuries." [passage omitted]

During an impromptu news conference on the courthouse stairs, Sergio Ortiz and Miguel Gaitan, who were released today for the "lack of merit" of the case, denied their links to the People's Revolutionary Organization (ORP).

PL Secretary General Sergio Ortiz and PL member Miguel Gaitan described themselves as members of a "revolutionary left group," but emphasized that they are not linked to and do not have any knowledge of the ORP.

Ortiz and Gaitan held police responsible for planting the explosives seized on 20 November at the PL headquarters at 781 Sarandi Street, in Buenos Aires.

Ortiz and Gaitan reported that they, along with Juan Aguirre and Maria Echeverri, a woman who is in charge of cleaning the building on Sarandi Street, were released today at 1430. [passage omitted]

Bolivia

Reaction to Attempted Coup in Venezuela Noted

Government Rejects Coup Attempt

PY2711180892 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Excerpt] The Bolivian Government has rejected the latest coup attempt in Venezuela. This was announced in a communique released by Bolivian Foreign Minister Ronald MacLean. He said:

[Begin recording] A few insurgents remain from a military plot which, as we learned, was discovered on time and was controlled effectively given that the Venezuelan Armed Forces loyally support the constitutional Venezuelan Government.

This is obviously a precautionary signal for all Latin Americans who are defending and consolidating democracy. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Paz 'Strongly' Deplores Events

PY2811015192 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Excerpt] The military coup in Venezuela was commented on during a ceremony held at the police school facilities this morning. The ceremony was attended by top-ranking officials. Our reporter (Juan Paravicini) taped the reactions of President Jaime Paz Zamora, General Hugo Banzer Suarez, and the U.S. ambassador.

[Begin Paz Zamora recording] We strongly deplore what happened in Venezuela this morning. We already have conveyed our solidarity—on behalf of the Bolivian Government and people—to the Venezuelan president, to his government, and especially to Venezuelan democracy. We would like this event to be just another accident in the difficult path of returning to the normal functioning of Venezuelan democracy. We are convinced that this type of action cannot resolve the problems that, in theory, it is supposed to resolve.

To my fellow Bolivian countrymen I would especially like to say that, thank God, the Bolivia of coups now belongs to the past. We should feel proud as a country because, thanks to the efforts of all Bolivians, we are enjoying stability, tranquillity, and security.

Those were the first thoughts I had this morning when I learned about the events in Venezuela. I told myself that Bolivia had that image in the past. Thank God, we have made progress, and today we do not have that image but quite the contrary. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Commander in Chief, Ministers React

PY2811022192 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] In our country, Armed Forces Commander in Chief Oscar Vargas Lorenzetti, Defense Minister Rear Admiral Alberto Saenz Klinsky, and Interior Minister Armando Saavedra Bruno have reacted to the coup attempt in Venezuela.

[Begin recording] [Vargas Lorenzetti] We have to respect whatever is done in other countries, but this does not mean we agree with it. Any coup or break in the state of law is negative for sovereign, independent countries. All institutions should seek to strengthen and improve democracy in order to benefit the people and society.

[Saavedra Bruno] Based on the reports we have heard, it was a frustrated coup. This undoubtedly causes problems for the government of President Carlos Andres Perez, but on the other hand it also shows that the majority of the Armed Forces supports the democratic process.

[Saenz Klinsky] Well, this is a very special situation in a sister country like Venezuela. You know that our system is totally different. The Armed Forces, since General Vildoso handed the presidency to a civilian 10 years ago, has firmly backed democracy, consolidating the power of democracy in the country. This is our position and the position of the Bolivian Armed Forces. It is also the position of the Venezuelan Armed Forces in a country where there, unfortunately, have been two coup attempts in a year. [end recording]

Agrarian Reform Agency's Directors Dismissed

PY2811004792 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0037 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Text] La Paz, 24 Nov (EFE)—The Bolivian Government today dismissed all National Agrarian Reform Council (CNRA) directors due to irregularities in awarding more than 90,000 hectares of land in the east of the country to former Education Minister Hedim Cespedes.

Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora issued a decree ordering the intervention in the CNRA and the creation of a commission to investigate all land concessions in the country during the past few years.

The intervention was prompted by the scandal provoked by a concession of more than 90,000 hectares of land in Santa Cruz Department to the firm "Bolibras," which was created with Bolivian and Brazilian capital.

The "Bolibras" owner, founder, and chief executive is Hedim Cespedes, former education minister and current deputy of one of the ruling coalition parties, the Nationalist Democratic Action (ADN).

Deputy Miguel Urioste, of the opposition Free Bolivia Movement (MBL), at the beginning of the month charged that then-Education Minister Cespedes received an illegal land concession in his capacity as minister.

Urioste went even further and accused President Paz Zamora himself of covering up for not ordering an intervention in the CNRA, an investigation of the report, and the punishment of Cespedes.

Today the president ordered an investigation into land concessions to "Bolibras" and other alleged illegal concessions in eastern Bolivian despite declarations by Minister of the Presidency Gustavo Fernandez calling Urioste's remarks "hasty" and defending Cespedes.

Banking, Air Transport Accord Signed With Peru

PY2811133292 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] Through their diplomatic representatives, Bolivia and Peru have signed exchange notes on commercial air transport and banking services.

The notes were signed at the Bolivian Foreign Ministry. One is an agreement through which Bolivia and Peru grant each other third and fourth air transport liberty rights, with reciprocity in equal opportunities, in keeping with supply and demand, guaranteeing fair competition, and granting each other preferential conditions for exploitation of their markets.

Peruvian Airlines will operate in La Paz, Santa Cruz, Cochabamba, Cobija, Riberalta, and Puerto Suarez.

The other exchange note establishes a Peruvian state banking enterprise in Bolivia, which will represent the Banco del Peru Corporation and its founders.

[Begin Foreign Minister Ronald MacLean recording] The decisions that are included in the exchange notes on air transport, which were adopted on the basis of reciprocity and for mutual benefit, will allow our airlines to build their own future, as an efficient instrument for the integration process between our two nations.

I would like to emphasize the fact that the expansion of the new air routes includes the city of Ilo where we have been granted a duty-free zone, thanks to the generosity and understanding of the brother people of Peru. [end recording]

Peruvian Ambassador Oscar Maurtua de Romana said that the reciprocal benefit should be an essential factor in the integration rules of Latin American countries.

[Begin Maurtua recording] Mr Foreign Minister: This simple but very significant ceremony is another proof of the exceptional period through which the relations between our two countries are going. As Your Excellency has rightly said on a recent occasion, our ties are now at their best level in the past 50 years. We can say that our ties are becoming increasingly stronger and more dynamic in the search for the integration target that we

are pursuing to promote development for our nations which have a potential market of 30 million consumers. [end recording]

Brazil

Government Issues Note on Venezuelan Situation

PY2711170392 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1500 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Report by Claudia Miani in Brasilia]

[Text] The Brazilian Government has just released a note on the coup attempt in Venezuela. The official note has been authorized by Interim President Itamar Franco. It states:

The Brazilian Government follows with concern the attempt to take power by force in Venezuela this morning. Given its commitment to democracy and the state of law, the Brazilian Government reiterates its repudiation of any and all acts that seek to usurp legitimately constituted institutional power. It also expresses its wish for a rapid return to normalality in the neighboring and friendly country of Venezuela.

The note concludes: The Brazilian Government expresses its support for the maintenance of peace and constitutional order, Venezuelan democracy, the full validity of human rights and individual freedoms.

Green Tax Approved, Venezuela Coup Attempt Noted

PY2811020492 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Excerpts] The Interparliamentary Meeting on the Environment has approved the Letter of Brasilia suggesting the creation of a green tax on countries' gross domestic product [PIB verde]. Legislators participating in the conference also approved a proposal repudiating the coup attempt in Venezuela.

The Venezuelan delegation did not participate in the ceremony closing the Interparliamentary Conference on Environment and Development. Legislators from more than 50 countries meeting since the beginning of the week in Brasilia showed their solidarity by approving a resolution repudiating the coup attempt in that country. The document characterizes the coup attempt as a disgraceful attack on world democracy. [passage omitted]

In the closing ceremony, legislators approved the Letter of Brasilia suggesting, among other things, the creation of a green gross domestic product, or green GDP. The green GDP is a tax on what a country destroys. The tax would be applied in cases of river or air pollution, destruction of forests, or forest burning. The tax considers nature an asset, and all those withdrawing something from it are as responsible as if they were taking something from the GDP. Countries then would create a special account to defend the environment. In Brazil, for instance, the destruction of forests on the Atlantic coast, the Amazon region, or other jungles would be charged to the GDP, and the money thus obtained would be used to repair what was destroyed.

The Letter of Brasilia proposes that the Rio Declaration that was approved in June be transformed into an ecological constitution.

The Letter of Brasilia approved by the interparliamentary conference proposes that the Rio Declaration approved in June be sent to the United Nations to be transformed into an Earth Letter, a kind of ecological constitution that will be as important as the Declaration on Human Rights is today. The letter also proposes that the Treaty on Forests be transformed into a convention and that legislatures take the responsibility for approving the conventions on biodiversity and climatic change as soon as possible.

The Letter of Brasilia asks that reports on what is being done in each country to implement the results of the Rio Conference be submitted for consideration to the respective legislatures. [passage omitted]

Collor Reportedly To Resign Before Senate Vote

PY2811201292 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 28 Nov 92 p 1

[Article printed on the front page from the "Gallery" column by Nirlando Beirao, which usually appears in the Cultural Section]

[Text] Suspended President Fernando Collor will resign on the day of his trial by the Senate, that is, on 18 December. According to this information that has been confirmed by an absolutely trustworthy source, Collor will go to Congress just before the voting is due to begin. He will make a violent speech accusing his accusers and announce his decision. He thus will thwart the impeachment process and will go out as the victim. Collor will depart right away for Paris, where his friend and secretary already is working out the details so the couple can establish residence. This week, through an envoy who had lunch at Collor's residence, Casa da Dinda, French President Francois Mitterrand offered Collor a permanent residence visa. As a result of his connections with the Monteiro de Carvalho family, Collor is a good friend of Robert Mitterrand, Francois' brother. It was no accident that businessman Olavo Monteiro de Carvalho attended Collor's luncheon with the French envoy. The envoy is the well-known Paris lawyer Paul Lonbard, current boyfriend of Fernando Collor de Mello's former wife, Lilibeth Monteiro de Carvalho.

Chile

Officials Comment on Coup Attempt in Venezuela

PY2811011792 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 2330 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] The coup attempt in Venezuela has elicited reactions in Chile. The government repudiated this new coup attempt in Venezuela and described it as an action that runs against democracy in Latin America.

For his part, the Venezuelan ambassador in our country stated that his government has the majority support of the Venezuelan Armed Forces.

After attending the traditional Friday mass at La Moneda, President Aylwin tersely commented on the Venezuelan coup attempt.

[Begin recording] [Aylwin] I trust that everything will go well and that the democratic regime will be maintained in Venezuela.

[Unidentified reporter] Will this subject be discussed at the Rio Group meeting?

[Aylwin] Very likely. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma also commented on the subject at La Moneda Palace.

[Begin recording] [reporter] What specific proposal will the Chilean Government make at the Rio Group summit, in terms of this specific issue?

[Silva Cimma] In terms of this issue, the Chilean Government will maintain that the Rio Declaration provides for instruments that will allow us to not merely issue rhetorical condemnations, but to adopt precautionary measures to avoid this type of action in the Americas. [end recording]

The Venezuelan Embassy in Santiago today conducted business as usual in a calm atmosphere, which was only disrupted by reports on developments received directly from the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry.

Venezuelan Ambassador Rigoberto Henriquez stated that the Social Christian Party, the main Venezuelan opposition party, repudiated the coup attempt just as the Venezuelan people did. Commenting on the characteristics of this uprising, Henriquez said:

[Begin recording] According to people who were able to contact the rebels and to people who heard their remarks, this is an eminently military movement with fascist leanings. [end recording]

Henriquez noted, however, that this is a mixed group that has (?a small support) within the Armed Forces. Proof of its heterogeneity is that it counts on the support of a civilian, underground group called Red Flag, with ultraleft leanings, which in the 1960's engaged in guerrilla activities and committed a number of crimes in urban areas.

Foreign Ministry Issues Communique

PY2711175692 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] The Chilean Government, through an official communique released by the Foreign Ministry, states that the events that have occurred in Venezuela deserve the strong repudiation by the government and the Chilean people.

The communique says that based on the permanent and firm commitment of Latin American countries with the cause of democracy and respect for human rights, the Chilean Government voices its full support for and solidarity with the constitutional authorities of that brotherly country.

It adds that, in keeping with the Santiago declaration on the defense of democracy in America, the Chilean delegation before the OAS has been instructed to request immediate intervention by the organization.

The Foreign Ministry states that repetitive uprisings by coupist groups which seek to jeopardize the continental democratic process must lead the Latin American Governments and people to further intensify their permanent actions to jointly and concertedly preserve the essential values of the democratic coexistence, which are very necessary for Latin American development.

Foreign Minister Confirms Asylum for Peruvian

PY3011021592 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0102 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Santiago, 29 Nov (EFE)—Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma confirmed on 29 November in this capital the granting of political asylum to Victor Polack Merel, a Peruvian citizen linked to a foiled coup d'etat in Peru on 13 November.

In remarks made today before travelling to the "Rio Group" meeting that will be held in Buenos Aires on 30 November, Silva Cimma indicated that the Chilean Government made this decision because the right of asylum is one of the Foreign Ministry's basic principles. [passage omitted]

Leftist Leader Hails Vote on Torricelli Amendment

PY2711014892 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 26 Nov 92

[Report by Marcela Torrejon]

[Text] The Leftist Democratic Participation Movement, PDI, has described as historic the recent UN resolution reaffirming the principles of sovereignty, nonintervention, and noninterference in Cuban domestic affairs. The

PDI believes the UN resolution has put an end to a confrontation between two blocs.

PDI leader Antonio Leal said the UN vote condemned an attempt to impose the Torricelli Amendment, which was designed to broaden the U.S. blockade against Cuba.

The UN vote is, however, just a declaration of principles that did not condemn the blockade.

Commenting on the subject, Leal said:

[Begin recording] In the first place, we would like to praise the vote cast at the United Nations by the democratic government of Chile under the guidance of Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma. This vote shows the Chilean Government's full awareness of the new stage of international politics and of the philosophy of an era that can no longer be governed by obsolete ideologies. [end recording]

Leal believes the UN resolution will be instrumental in allowing Cuba to stop being the target of confrontation between two blocs and to become a normal country. Leal admitted, however, that there are problems in Cuba because it still is lacking all the constitutional guarantees that should exist in a democratic state of law.

International observers have described the UN vote as a diplomatic defeat for the United States. They noted, however, that it was not a resounding victory for Cuba either.

The UN resolution primarily recommends that the principle of nonintervention be observed in the case of Cuba. Although the resolution reflects the international community's prevailing opinion, it is not binding.

Conditions for U.S. Free Trade Agreement Viewed

PY2411212092 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 17 Nov 92 p B1

[Text] Barbara Urzua, deputy president of the Chilean-U.S. Chamber of Commerce, has said that the fear of a possible blocking of negotiations over a free trade agreement with the United States "has faded in Chile after the recent statements by President-elect Bill Clinton."

Urzua emphasized that both Clinton and his advisers "in the past few days reiterated their support for free market economies, and for the free trade initiatives with Latin American countries."

She said that after Mexico, Chile is the next candidate to sign a free trade agreement with the United States. She said that despite the doubts that Clinton has raised about labor and environmental matters, "the free trade agreement with Mexico will be signed anyway."

Among the matters that are central for an agreement with the United States, Urzua mentioned specific demands for once again amending the Chilean intellectual property law, "because U.S. laboratories might consider that medicine patent regulations are insufficient."

She added that it is also necessary to improve control on the intellectual property rights of films and videos, and to enforce regulations to fight software "piracy."

Urzua said that those will be the major issues of debate with the United States, which are a precondition for approval of a free trade agreement. She added that the Chilean Government and Chilean businessmen "should be ready to properly tackle the problem."

Aylwin's Entourage Assesses Tour of Asia

PY2411112592 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 23 Nov 92

[Text] President Patricio Aylwin has returned from a 15 day tour of three countries in the Asian-Pacific region. Ministers, congressmen, and businessmen who accompanied him positively assessed this historic tour.

Finance Minister Alejandro Foxley emphasized that one of major achievements was the removal of Chile from the list of countries considered to be a high-risk for bank credits.

[Begin Foxley recording] We must tell these Asian countries of our wish to engage in serious free trade. This remote zone has the most rapid growth in the world. We are very impressed with their vigorous economy, the creativeness of the businessmen, and their governments' wish to consider Chile as a preferential country and as a partner with which they want to maintain a privileged relation. [end recording]

Foxley said that Asian countries believe that democracy is working in Chile because representatives of all sectors were included in the entourage.

Renewal Party Senator Sergio Romero said that this visit marks a new stage in the diplomatic relations that must continue from now on. He said that during this tour, these countries showed that they want to maintain not only political but also economic and cultural relations.

Minister Pleased With New Japanese Ship Route

PY2511015692 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 2330 GMT 24 Nov 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma said news that the ship carrying plutonium will not sail along our country's shores confirms the effectiveness of the steps taken by the Chilean Government before the Japanese Government. He added that after the tour of Japan, the PRC, and Malaysia, Chile began a new stage in its trade relations. He said the government is fully satisfied with the tour of the Asian countries, which proved successful in the field of politics and, particularly, in the field of trade. Minister Silva Cimma said that the officials and businessmen who accompanied President Aylwin on his trip to Malaysia, the PRC, and Japan established contacts that open a new world of opportunities for Chilean

products. Simultaneously, it confirmed Chile as [words indistinct] trade among these countries and the Latin American continent.

Regarding the Japanese ship Akazuki Maru, which apparently will not sail the Cape Horn route, Silva Cimma said this confirms the Chilean Government's assertation that our country can remain calm because, contrary to criticism by some groups, the Chilean Government acted very firmly before the Japanese Government.

[Begin Silva Cimma recording] This confirms something that fills me with great satisfaction: The Chilean Government has acted quietly and without exaggeration, and in accordance with a healthy juridical reasoning, which has—definitively—yielded good results. [end recording]

The foreign minister concluded by saying that next year the highest-ranking Malaysian and Japanese officials will probably make official visits to Chile.

Russia's Mamedov on Official Visit, Views Ties

PY2411224892 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 16 Nov 92 pp C1, 15

[Text] In a special message sent to his Chilean counterpart, Patricio Aylwin, Russian President Boris Yeltsin expresses his conviction that there are excellent prospects for cooperation between the two countries and conveys his government's interest in studying measures designed to increasingly strengthen Chilean-Russian ties on every front.

The announcement was made by Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Mamedov, who yesterday began an official visit to Chile and who has thus become the highest-level Russian official to visit Chile since last year's collapse of the Soviet Union and emergence of the Russian Federation as the sovereign state replacing the former USSR.

Mamedov also brought a letter from the Russian foreign minister to Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma. The letter describes the priority objectives and interests of "the new democratic Russia."

The main objective of Mamedov's visit to Chile is to promote bilateral ties. Tomorrow, he and acting Foreign Minister Edmundo Vargas are scheduled to sign a protocol designed to create mechanisms of political consultations at the foreign ministry level between the two countries.

Mamedov said: "This is the first step toward creating a legal basis for our bilateral relations; it will be instrumental in promoting frequent contacts between the foreign ministries to discuss the entire range of international topics, international cooperation, and all other topics of common interest."

The Russian official had to fly more than 24 hours to arrive in Chile. He was originally scheduled to arrive at the Arturo Merino Benitez terminal at 1030, but he did not arrive until 1300 because his plane experienced problems in Frankfurt.

Mamedov was welcomed by protocol officials, namely, Protocol Secretary Rodolfo Montecinos; by Russian Ambassador Vasiliy Gromov, and other Russian Embassy officials.

Mamedov's visit to Chile is part of his first tour of Latin America, a tour that will also include Argentina and Brazil.

Mamedov Rules Out a Coup d'Etat

Speaking to reporters, Mamedov noted that Russia is now taking part "in very important events," and that the decision to visit Chile now stems from the fact that his gocvernment perceives that "there are very good prospects for cooperation" with our country in the future.

Asked if a coup d'etat could take place in Russia, as some Muscovites have predicted, Mamedov said that there is tension in his country and that Yeltsin has seen the Parliament's decision to convene the Congress of Deputies for 1 December as an act of confrontation. He added that Yeltsin has tried to hold a direct dialogue and to promote consultations between the executive branch and the legislature.

Mamedov said: "That is, there is political tension, because there are conservative forces seeking revenge and that want to disrupt democratic transformations."

He added that no one can predict the future, but he made it clear that he is optimistic because the democratic forces supporting President Yeltsin both from within the government, state organizations, and from the Armed Forces, are strong enough to avert any coup attempt.

Relations With Chile

Mamedov described his country as "a new democratic Russia" and stated that it is linked to Chile by their democratic values because, after a very difficult history, the two peoples are building a state of law.

Mamedov added: "We advocate an open economic system, and support progressive changes that are taking place in the world to fully dismantle the former system of confrontation that had governed international relations. Russia and Chile are interested in a more active struggle to defend human rights."

He said Russia is very interested in the Chilean economic experience and in its reading of ongoing integrationist processes in Latin America and elsewhere.

Mamedov added: "I bring very precise instructions from my government to discuss with my Chilean counterparts the future relations between our two countries in every possible area."

He added that the letter addressed to Foreign Minister Silva Cimma outlines areas for bilateral cooperation in

which, in his opinion, there are excellent prospects ofr benefiting both countries and peoples.

Mamedov said that after establishing a mechanism for political consultations between the two foreign ministries, action will be taken to implement projects and specific agreements that are already included in the respective agenda for talks.

He also emphatically stated that today there are great prospects for common development because of the removal of the ideological-political stumbling blocks that had jeoparpdized the former USSR's relations with Latin America and Chile.

Mamedov said: "The Latin American and Russian economic structures can supplement each other. Despite our different historical background, Russia has much in common with Chile and with other countries in the region because all of them, Russia included, are undergoing a very similar transition process to democracy and there are enormous possibilities of strengthening our economic cooperation."

Mikhail Gorbachev

Commenting on the stature of former USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev, Mamedov said that Gorbachev is an individual who, while in power, promoted major reforms that subsequently helped the Russian democratic forces to seize the reigns of power. Because of specific circumstances, Gorbachev was unable to implement all the political and economic reforms he had intended.

Mamedov said the government hopes Gorbachev will side with the democratic forces in their struggle against conservative groups, but Gorbachev has made some remarks that "could be interpreted otherwise."

Gorbachev will make a private visit to Chile on 4-5 December.

Pinochet Briefs Aylwin on Phone Tapping Case

PY2511013292 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 24 Nov 92

[Report by Manuela Robles at La Moneda Palace]

[Text] Secretary General of Government Enrique Correa today read a sketchy official communique to report to the public on the reasons behind President Aylwin's decision to summon General Augusto Pinochet, commander in chief of the Army, to La Moneda Palace today. Aylwin and Pinochet met for approximately 70 minutes.

Herewith Correa's extremely sketchy report on the Pinochet-Aylwin meeting:

[Begin Correa recording] ...to ask him for a report about the measures the Army will adopt in the face of the tapping and recording of private telephone conversations of a national senator.

The Army commander in chief briefed the president on the appropriate measures that have been adopted and that will be adopted to correct this serious situation. These measures will be disclosed to the public by the Army itself through a communique. [end recording]

This was the official communique on the topic discussed at the meeting. Correa declined to answer questions, and no further information was given about the case of political espionage by telephone.

According to unconfirmed reports, the respective commanding officer will be held responsible; that is, the top commanding officer of each institution will be held responsible for illegal actions. In this case, the Army telecommunications commander could be held responsible.

Pinochet set up a true diversion operation in order to be able to leave La Moneda Palace undisturbed. After his meeting with President Aylwin, Pinochet left through the La Moneda underground exit, while his Mercedes car left the palace empty. Pinochet had left earlier in a similar car that was parked at the palace bunker.

Court Rejects German Request for Dignidad Files

PY2611133592 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Excerpts] The Supreme Court again rejected a writ of reconsideration presented by lawyer Sergio Corvalan in representation of Germany, which is requesting a copy of the Colonia Dignidad files collected by the Rettig Committee. [passage omitted]

Lawyer Corvalan expressed surprise at the Supreme Court decision given that the Rettig Committee files are being kept by the National Reparation and Reconciliation Board Corporation with the purpose of maintaining the files available for any court that may request them. Germany's concrete interest in the files was explained by Corvalan:

[Begin recording] German justice is interested in officially learning of the files collected by the Rettig Committee which concluded that serious human rights violations were committed in Colonia Dignidad. There is evidence, in trials that are being held in Germany, that these human rights violations could have been committed by German citizens. Therefore there is great interest in clarifying this. [end recording]

Lawyer Corvalan said he hopes that the files which were not granted by the Supreme Court will be supplied by Raul Rettig and Jaime Castillo Velazco.

There are three trials currently being held in Germany against Colonia Dignidad for having committed the following crimes: deprivation of freedom and serious

injuries, bodily injuries and crimes against sexual freedom, and alleged participation in murders.

Suspected Drug Trafficker Arrested on Tax Charges

PY2611021992 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 2330 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Investigative Police today arrested Mario Silva Leiva, alias El Cabro Carrera, on tax evasion charges. Leiva is presumed to be the most powerful drug trafficker in our country, and police think this case might mark the beginning of the fight on money laundering.

Mario Silva Leiva, 68, lives in a real mansion on Pedro de Valdivia North of the Providencia Commune. He always has been linked to drug trafficking. In 1973, Leiva and other 11 individuals were deported to the United States to answer charges of drug trafficking. During the time he stayed abroad, he was detained in the United States, Italy, and Brazil. He returned to Chile in October 1988 and became a very wealthy man. Among other assets, he owns a building in downtown Santiago, a motel, and a real estate firm, and he is linked to horse racing. He is the stepfather of Luis Torres [words indistinct] who was extradited to the United States in July of this year to finish serving a prison term for drug trafficking.

It is said that Mario Silva Leiva, alias El Cabro Carrera, earned his fortune as a drug trafficker, although police have been unable to prove it.

Investigative Police arrested him at his mansion this morning as a result of a lawsuit filed in the Third Circuit Criminal Court by the Internal Revenue Service, which charged him with tax evasion as the result of an investigation conducted this year. [passage omitted]

Colombia

Gaviria Sends Communique To Venezuela's Perez

PA2711182492 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1630 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Report by Monica Echeverry]

[Text] President Cesar Gaviria strongly condemned the coup d'etat in Venezuela. In a communique the president reiterated his unconditional support for the democratic government of Carlos Andres Perez. Gaviria said Colombia supports the people and Government of Venezuela.

[Begin Gaviria recording] I want to say that the president of the Republic of Colombia strongly condemns this new coup attempt in Venezuela, staged early on the morning of 27 November. The Colombian president expresses his total and firm support for the constitutional government of Carlos Andres Perez and praises the loyalty and adherence to constitutional order by the Venezuelan Armed Forces and people, who just as on 4 February, have defended their democratic system. [end recording]

The Colombian president spoke with Carlos Andres Perez very early on 27 November. In the conversation, Perez told Gaviria that the emergency would be overcome.

Defense Ministry Reinforces Border With Venezuela

PA2811002492 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] The Defense Ministry and the Armed Forces command decided on 27 November to reinforce the troops deployed along the border with Venezuela. Two Hercules airplanes took off on 27 November afternoon enroute to La Guajira, a key point on the border between the two countries, because it is located near the area to be delimited in the dispute over the Venezuela Gulf.

This is actually a preventive security measure in light of the actions carried out against Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez' government. Approximately 200 men make up these reinforcements.

Escobar Gaviria's Strongman Killed by Police

PA2711204192 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1620 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Report by Benjamin Castro]

[Text] Medellin—Johnny Edison Rivera Acosta, alias El Palomo, and his two bodyguards, who were killed during a police operation early on 27 November in Itagui, will be buried at a cemetery in southern Valle de Aburra.

Rivera Acosta, who escaped La Catedral Jail, had become the strong man of Pablo Escobar Gaviria's military wing after the death of Brances Alexander Munoz Mosquera, alias Tyson, a month ago in western Medellin.

El Palomo was killed with two of his men, identified as Carlos Mario Manrique of Itagui and Jairo Alonso Carvajal Rey of Medellin, two of Rivera Acosta's bodyguards.

The bodies will be delivered to relatives after the autopsies, which will be performed on 27 November.

During the operation, authorities arrested Jorge Ivan Acevedo Gutierrez and Marta Erica Avendano Arango.

Rivera Acosta was born in La Estrella Municipality on 21 September 1970. He was the son of Antonio Rivera and Alicia Acosta. He surrendered to justice on 28 June 1991, and one week later, on 5 July 1991, a court in Antioquia sentenced him to 11 years in prison for homicide and terrorism. His lawyers appealed the sentence.

Rivera Acosta was charged with illegal possession of weapons, homicide, criminal association, kidnapping and extortion, escape from jail, personal injuries, and terrorism. He escaped from La Catedral Jail on 22 July, accompanying Pablo Escobar Gaviria and eight other members of the Medellin Cartel, who were confined

there. Escobar Gaviria and Alfonso Leon Puerto Munoz, alias El Angelito, are the only ones in the group who are still at large.

A regional prosecutor issued an arrest warrant against Fernando Henao Vallejo, brother-in-law of Pablo Escobar Gaviria, who was detained with four other persons on 9 November in Medellin. The arrest warrant against Henao Vallejos, who is currently at the Bella Vista Jail and cannot be released on bail, was issued for illegal possession of weapons.

It was also reported on 27 November that a regional prosecutor issued an arrest warrant without possibility of release on bail against Humberto Vargas and Francisco Gomez, militants of the Communist Party in Antioquia, who were charged with rebellion.

Gunmen Kill Party Leader in Meta Department

PA2811010192 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Three [number as heard] terrorist attacks disrupted the peace on the evening of 26 November in Villavicencio Department. Several armed men killed Jose Rodrigo Garcia, president of Patriotic Union and vice president of the assembly in Meta Department, in the first attack. Later on, several persons, including a small girl, were injured when unidentified men hurled a grenade and opened fire on pedestrians.

Military Sources Report New ELN Terrorist Plan

PA3011041092 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0030 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Text] Military sources confirmed to this station on 28 November that the Eagle's Flight [Vuelo del Aguila] is the new ELN [Army of National Liberation] terrorist plan. This plan calls for attacks on civilians and the oil infrastructure, as well as a vast propaganda effort through videos of rebel actions to counter the government offensive against subversion.

The ELN plan orders rebels to continue to blow up energy towers and dynamite pipelines. According to military intelligence documents, the guerrillas justify the blowing up of energy towers saying that the kilowatts that Venezuela gives to Colombia are just a way to cover the government failure with the barges.

According to the military source, the ELN intends to film terrorist attacks and other insurgent activities to carry out a publicity campaign of its actions. Video films of the guerrilla takeover in Salazar de las Palmas in Norte de Santander Department were already made.

ELN leaders Francisco Galan and Nicolas Rodriguez, also known as Gabino, issued the sabotage orders.

Comparing the Army information with what has been occurring recently, it was reported that the Colombia Pipeline in Antioquia was blown up, thus raising to 109,000 the total of barrels of oil spilled so far. An attack was also carried out in the same area but this was on the multipurpose pipeline used to transport gasoline and other fuels. Several (Termo-Tasajeo) towers were blown up last weekend.

In addition, it was learned today that Arauca will be without energy for another 20 days because the guerrillas destroyed three more pylons of the network that carries electricity to that region.

President Gaviria Appoints New Health Minister

PA2811171792 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1627 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Report by Manuel Salazar from Narino Palace]

[Excerpt] The new public health minister is Juan Luis Londono, the current deputy director of the National Planning Department. President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo appointed him to that post on 28 November.

Londono has served as deputy director of the National Planning Department since 1990. He is business manager of the (Eapip Unit) of Medellin and economist at the Universities of Antioquia and Los Andes. Londono holds a Masters Degree in Economics from the University de los Andes, which he earned in 1985, and a Masters Degree in Science from Harvard University. Londono also holds a PhD in Economics from Harvard University.

The new minister is a Liberal from Antioquia Department. He is married and has two children. He is perhaps Colombia's most prominent economist on the topic of wealth distribution. He has served as professor at the Universities of Harvard, Los Andes, Nacional, and Javeriana. [passage omitted]

Anti-Drug Trafficking Pledge Signed With Panama

PA2911182892 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Report by Patricia Uribe]

[Text] The governments of Panama and Colombia have pledged to create legal and financial mechanisms, and reinforce existing ones, to fight drug trafficking and money laundering. In installing the Neighborhood Commission [Comision de Vecindad], Colombian President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo and Panamanian President Guillermo Endara Galimany asked financial institutions to exchange information regarding money laundering.

[Begin Endara recording] It concerns everything that can help mutual assistance on matters of drug trafficking. That would certainly include intelligence information, as well as mutual assistance on criminal matters, in the form of taking testimony or seeking information. In sum, it includes everything that can be done without harming the sovereignty of our countries. [end recording]

In the joint declaration they signed, the two governments made reference to the hopes of Latin America's banana producing countries to enter the EC free market. Cultural, scientific, and economic cooperation were also included in the agreements signed by the two presidents. President Guillermo Endara will be returning to his country on the evening of 28 November.

Ecuador

State of Emergency in Sucumbios Declared

PA3011004292 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0003 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Text] Quito, 29 Nov (DPA)—The Ecuadoran Government on 29 November declared the Amazonic Sucumbios Province under a state of emergency following the serious clashes between residents of the area and members of the public force.

The events are taking place within the strike at the Amazonic municipalities which are seeking more funds for the region. On 29 November, the strike entered its seventh day.

The production halt at the two oil wells occupied by the demonstrators has led to multi-million losses this past week, as 200,000 barrels of crude oil and 300 tons of gas have not been pumped.

Following the clashes, the leaders who organized the strike announced a truce until a high-level commission visits the site of the events.

The agitators warned the government that if they have not received an answer to their demands by 1 December, they will reinforce the strike.

All oil installations in the Ecuadoran Amazon area remain under guard by the police and the Armed Forces, which began on 27 Novemeber when the demands became more violent. So far, the strike has left a total of seven wounded by gunfire.

Finance Minister Defends Budget Law

PA2811212792 Quito Voz de Los Andes in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Nov 92

[Text] Finance Minister Mario Rivadeneira has been forced to defend the legality of the budget law that recently was sent to the Legislative Branch for evaluation. Minister Rivadeneira has indicated that the purpose of the budget proposal is to reorder the use of public funds as well as to decentralize its execution.

[Begin Rivadeneira recording] What I am looking for is to de-bureaucratize this ministry. I want less steps involved in implementing a specific project so that we can accomplish more and a lot more efficiently. It will be possible to accomplish this objective by passing the budget law. [end recording]

Rivadeneira insists that the new budget law will allow a more reasonable and efficient use of resources and will end the arbitrary conduct of some state institutions.

Paraguay

Government 'Condemns' Coup Attempt in Venezuela

PY2911232692 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 29 Nov 92 p 8

[Excerpts] In a communique released yesterday, our country's government expresses its full support to the Venezuelan Government and condemns any movement that, using violent methods, intends to disrupt the state of law and the democratic constitutional order.

The aforementioned communique also expresses solidarity with Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez and the Venezuelan people "who are bravely championing the democratic and representative system." [passage omitted]

In another passage, the communique confirms that in America there is no longer any room for regimes that do not originate in the people's will and again expresses wishes for the sisterly Republic of Venezuela to continue enjoying the full exercise of its democratic tradition. [passage omitted]

Police Officials Indicted for Salary Fraud

PY2511140292 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 25 Nov 92 pp 2-3

[Excerpt] On 24 November Criminal Judge Angel Ramon Barchini indicted Division General Francisco Sanchez Gonzalez, former police chief, and Commissioner Carlos Molinas, administrative director and police paymaster. They have been accused of crimes against the public administration. The judge made his decision based on the charges made by the attorney general regarding the scandalous funneling off of salaries through phantom policemen.

In accordance with the decision that Judge Barchini handed down on 24 November, Sanchez Gonzalez and Molinas must face these serious charges submitted against them.

In his decision the judge states that "if these alleged charges are true, then it is a crime that can be investigated directly by the judge," and has ordered that the accused come before his court to testify.

In accordance with the judge's decision Sanchez must testify on 1 December at 1000, and Molinas on 2 December at the same time. [passage omitted]

Officials Praise Arrest Warrants Against Generals

PY2711213892

[Editorial Report] Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish on 19 November, page 19, carries three 300-word items on reactions by prominent politicians to Criminal Judge Felix Silva Monges' decision to order the arrest of former Army commander General Humberto Garcete, General Lorenzo Carrillo Melo, and other officers in connection with charges of trafficking in vehicles through the Chaco region to Bolivia.

The first item carries remarks by Senator Waldino Ramon Lovera of the Colorado Party, who describes Garcete's arrest as a sign that senior military officers are no longer above the law. He said: "This is a very special, significant action, taking into account that it reflects a decision by the court to bring to justice any individual, whether military or civilian, to answer charges in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution."

The second item carries remarks by Guillermo Caballero Vargas, a presidential hopeful for the National Encounter Movement, who describes the arrest warrants against the two senior officers as "highly positive for the transition process to democracy." He adds that "the courts are beginning to take an active role in this process" and praises the judicial branch's independence.

The third item carries remarks by Federico Callizo, an Authentic Radical Liberal Party leader, who praises Judge Silva for issuing the arrest warrants. Callizo says: "From the political standpoint, Judge Silva made a courageous decision because this has been an unprecedented decision in the history of the Paraguayan justice system. This is why the judge's decision is truly praiseworthy." He adds that measures like these will help the courts regain the people's confidence.

Peru

Venezuelan Officers Land in Peru, Request Asylum

PA2811035192 Caracas Televen Canal 10 Television in Spanish 0305 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Report by Raul Herrera from Iquitos, Peru—live]

[Text] Ninety-three members of the Venezuelan Air Force who presumably participated in a foiled coup d'etat in Caracas early on 27 November arrived suddenly at the Francisco Secada Vineta International Airport in this city and were immediately transferred to a passenger lounge. The military—41 officers, 32 NCOs, 15 cadets, and 5 soldiers—include an unidentified woman and they are led by Air Force General Francisco Visconti Osorio. They are now waiting for a decision on the political asylum they requested from the Peruvian Government.

The aircraft, a Hercules C-130 transport, requested an emergency landing at 1750 [2250 GMT] this evening and the control tower reportedly authorized the landing under those conditions. Nevertheless, once they had landed, the Venezuelan military said they needed political asylum in Peru; and then they proceeded to sing the national anthem of their country and shout slogans supporting the foiled coup d'etat against President Carlos Andres Perez. The Peruvian Air Force was immediately notified and the Iquitos international airport was then evacuated. The Peruvian Air Force has assumed control of the facilities and the police have banned access to the passenger lounge.

A Peruvian Air Force plane took off from this city at 2100 en route to Lima in a civil flight, although it was known the airport had been declared on emergency status. The media could not contact the Venezuelan military officers but it is believed they were part of a domestic flight within the framework of the uprising because they were carrying weapons. It is reported they preferred to travel to this city given the coup's failure.

It has also been revealed that a Peruvian Government airplane is now en route to this city from the capital, the passengers of which are to talk with the rebel military officers.

Further on Asylum Request

PA2811181892 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0757 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Report by Jose Bujanda]

[Text] Lima, 28 Nov (EFE)—On 28 November Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori is considering granting political asylum to 93 Venezuelans, including soldiers and their families, who arrived in Peru in an airplane after fleeing Venezuela on 27 November after their failed coup attempt.

The Venezuelan soldiers, including 47 high-ranking officers, are all members of the Air Force and are headed by General Francisco Visconti Osorio. They arrived in Iquitos, capital of the Peruvian Amazon Region, on board a Hercules C-130 plane and requested political asylum.

The pilot reported mechanical problems and Peruvian authorities authorized the aircraft to land at the Francisco Secada Airport in the city of Iquitos, capital of the Amazon state of Loreto, which borders Colombia and Brazil and is located near the Amazon River.

Gen. Tomas Castillo, commander of the Iquitos Military Region, said the Peruvian plane departed from Maracay Air Base, 150 km from Caracas, where a foiled coup against the government of Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez began early on 27 November.

Gen. Castillo added the plane in which the group of Venezuelan rebel soldiers were travelling was followed when overflying Venezuelan territory by two Mirage planes of the Venezuelan Air Force operated by soldiers loyal to the government.

There is a woman among the soldiers, who sang the Venezuelan national anthem after descending the plane, according to local sources.

After landing in Iquitos and once the weapons they were carrying were confiscated, the Venezuelan rebels, who were wearing camouflage uniforms and red berets, were divided into two groups and taken to two hotels in the center of the city, the Peruvian state news agency Andina reported.

The agency added there were several civilians in the group, apparently relatives of the soldiers, who were lodged in the two hotels as "individuals under custody" [depositados] under "strict military surveillance."

Venezuelan Air Force Gen. Francisco Visconti Osorio told journalists upon arriving at the airport in Iquitos that "we are happy to be in this land. Peru is a Bolivarian country."

In Venezuela, the coupist soldiers who tried to overthrow Carlos Andres Perez on 27 November have identified themselves as members of the Bolivarian Revolutionary Movement (MRB-200), which failed in a previous coup attempt on 4 February.

Gen. Visconti said he could not make any further statement due to "the circumstances of possible political asylum."

Peruvian Gen. Tomas Castillo and Gen. Miguel Medina, commander of the Iquitos Military Region, and of the 5th Wing Group of the Peruvian Air Force (FAP), respectively, are heading the talks with the Venezuelan rebel soldiers.

Castillo and Medina told the press the Peruvian Foreign Ministry is the government institution in charge of handling the situation.

In an official communique issued on 27 November the Peruvian Government expressed "its concern over the current situation in Venezuela."

The note reported the government "rejects the use of force and violence," and reaffirmed "its democratic conviction and its respect for human rights."

It added the Fujimori administration "publicly expresses its confidence that the brotherly people of Venezuela will find solutions to their problems."

Diplomatic relations between Peru and Venezuela were suspended by the government of Carlos Andres Perez after the 5 April institutional coup d'etat staged by the Peruvian president with the support of the Armed Forces.

The arrival in Peru and request for political asylum of 93 Venezuelan soldiers implicated in the aborted military coup takes place a few days after a military coup against the Fujimori Government failed on 13 November.

In his first communique after the coup attempt, Fujimori said that "in their delirium, those units (Peruvian coupist officers) probably tried to imitate nationalist soldiers struggling against corrupt regimes repudiated by the people in other parts of the world, but they chose the wrong country and social environment."

Fujimori To Meet With Soldiers

PA2811200792 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1913 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Lima, 28 Nov (EFE)—Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori in the next few hours will arrive in Iquitos (northeast) to meet with the 93 Venezuelan soldiers who traveled to Peru on 27 November and requested political asylum after participating in an unsuccessful coup attempt in their country, political sources have reported.

Fujimori's arrival is scheduled for 1600 (2100 GMT) and the corresponding security measures have already been adopted, an official source told EFE in Iquitos.

Neither the Peruvian Foreign Relations Ministry nor the Presidency have issued opinions on the political asylum request made by the Venezuelan soldiers immediately after landing in Iquitos aboard a C-130 Hercules of the Venezuelan Air Force, a flight that originated from Maracay.

Political and judicial sources in Peru pointed out the government of Alberto Fujimori will grant political asylum to the group of Venezuelan soldiers.

Venezuelan Air Force General Efrain Francisco Visconti Osorio, who heads the group of soldiers from his country, on 28 November said the circumstances surrounding his arrival in Peru prevent him from making statements, but said he is sure they will be granted political asylum in Peru.

After spending the evening in two hotels in downtown Iquitos, the Venezuelan soldiers were transferred to a military area in Aerial Group No. 42 inside the Francisco Secada International Airport in Iquitos, capital of the Amazonian Department of Loreto, which is along the Amazon River near the Colombian and Brazilian border.

The C-130 Hercules of the Venezuelan Air Force was sealed and remains at a military area in Aerial Group No. 42.

Peruvian Gen. Tomas Castillo, commander of the Iquitos military region, said the Venezuelan plane came from the air base in Maracay, 100 km from Caracas, where the failed coup attempt against the government of Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez started on the early hours of 27 November.

President Fujimori traveled on 28 November to La Merced, in Chanchamayo, Junin Department in the country's central area, which is Peru's main coffee area. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry Issues Communique

PA2911024292 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Communique No. 60 issued by the Peruvian Foreign Ministry Press Directorate in Lima on 28 November—read by announcer]

[Text] The Peruvian Foreign Ministry hereby fulfills its duty to inform the public that on Friday, 27 November, at 1748 local time a Venezuelan Air Force C-130 transport landed at the Francisco Secada Vinieta Airport in Iquitos, originating from the El Libertador Air Force Base in Venezuela.

According to the information supplied by the crew, said aircraft was experiencing mechanical problems in the engines as well as in the hydraulic system.

Second. The aircraft was carrying a total of 93 persons including crew and passengers: 43 officers, 32 junior officers, 15 air technicians, and 5 soldiers.

Third. The Peruvian military authorities decided immediately to confiscate all weapons found on board as well as to seal the aircraft. The 93 members of the Venezuelan Armed Forces were taken to the city of Iquitos where they are currently under the jurisdiction of the appropriate military authorities.

Fourth. Venezuelan Air Force General Francisco Efrain Visconti Osorio who claimed to be in charge of the military contingent, requested political asylum for himself as well as the people accompanying him.

Fifth. The Peruvian Government is currently evaluating the asylum request.
[Issued] Lima, 28 November 1992.
[Signed] Foreign Ministry Press Directorate.

Fujimori Reportedly Grants Asylum

PA3011043392 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0404 GMT 30 Nov 92

[Text] Lima, 29 Nov (EFE)—Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori on 29 November announced that his government will grant the right of asylum to the 93 Venezuelan military officers, who have been in Peru since 27 November.

"We are going to grant them the right to asylum because we have to preserve the integrity and life of these military officers," Fujimori said live in a prime-time television program on the evening of 29 November.

"The right to asylum is determined by the host country. In this case the right to asylum is decided by Peru and not Venezuela," Fujimori said.

"These military officers may return to their country if by their own initiative they request it after receiving guarantees from their country," Fujimori said.

The Peruvian president said: "If a group of Venezuelan citizens requests the right of asylum, the normal thing to do in the case is to grant them the asylum."

Fujimori said his government is making the necessary efforts for coordination with the Venezuelan authorities to return to that country the C-130 Hercules transport, the weapons, and other equipment brought by the Venezuelan military officers when they landed in Peru.

The group of 93 Venezuelan officers, led by Venezuelan Air Force General Efrain Francisco Visconti Osorio, comprises 41 officers, 32 NCO's, 15 aircraft technicians, and five soldiers.

The 93 military officers arrived in the Amazon town of Iquitos in northeastern Peru on 27 November after fleeing Venezuela where they had participated in an unsuccessful coup attempt against the Carlos Andres Perez government.

Ministry Issues Communique on Venezuelan Situation

PA2811013492 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 28 Nov 92

["Official" communique issued by the Peruvian Foreign Ministry on 27 November]

[Text] The Government of Peru hereby voices its concern over the situation in Venezuela, while it rejects the use of force and violence.

The Government of Peru hereby ratifies its democratic convictions and its respect for human rights, and is confident that the brother people of Venezuela will find the solution to their problems.
[Issued] Lima, 27 November 1992
Press Directorate of the Foreign Relations Ministry

Army Destroys Shining Path Base in Ayachucho

PA2711140492 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 1212 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] The subversives have been dealt another heavy blow. Army troops leveled the Shining Path's main base in Ayacucho Department, where they killed more than 50 rebels. It was reported that three soldiers were injured in this military incursion.

This Shining Path fort in Viscatan is located in a very wild and virtually unassailable area of Huanta Province, Ayacucho Department. After nearly 10 days of ongoing clashes, the military troops managed to occupy the base. They seized a large number of weapons, explosives, ammunition, and propaganda. Most of the 300 Shining Path members fled to the highlands, where they are being pursued by Army troops, it was reported.

Restructuring of Foreign Ministry 'Ordered'

PA2811033892 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] Through a decree law, the government has ordered the restructuring of the Foreign Ministry, including an overhauling of the diplomatic corps. This restructuring of the diplomatic corps was one of the chief objectives of the National Emergency and Reconstruction Government since the start.

According to Decree Law 25,889, this process will last 30 days, and the foreign minister will be in charge of it. He is authorized to draft an incentive plan for the voluntary separation of Ministry personnel. Funds to implement the plan will come from the surplus reported in 1991 and 1992.

Two articles were amended by the supreme decree. The first, Article 141, refers to the investigation of officials involved in wrongdoing. The second, Article 58, allows administrative staff members with over five years of service to serve abroad.

Venezuela

Zambrano Updates Events Surrounding Coup Attempt

PA2711160492 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1455 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Interview with Angel Zambrano, director of the Central Information Office, in Caracas, by unidentified reporter in Santa Fe de Bogota—live]

[Text] [Reporter] What information can you give us at this time?

[Zambrano] Some small subversive outbreaks have taken place, but they are being controlled because all the Armed Forces remain loyal to the government and democracy.

[Reporter] There are reports the situation at La Carlota air base is very tense and Bronco planes are bombing that base.

[Zambrano] That is right. Three Bronco planes are strafing La Carlota and other areas of the city. Nevertheless, loyal Air Force planes—which are an immense majority—are already proceeding to pursue these planes. I do not think these flights will continue over Caracas and especially over their target, La Carlota air base. Their objective is apparently to seize the air base for use as an operations base. Very early this morning, this minority group seized the air base at Maracay, approximately 75 minutes by car from Caracas. I insist the situation is being controlled by the government because all the country's garrisons are under the control of the Armed Forces supreme command, which is held by President Carlos Andres Perez.

[Reporter] A few minutes ago we reported a pilot ejected from a downed Bronco airplane.

[Zambrano] That is right. It was downed. This confirms what I said earlier: Loyal airplanes are acting to neutralize the destructive effect this small group of rebel units are causing in the city.

[Reporter] International news agencies report Maiquetia airport is closed.

[Zambrano] The Maiquetia airport has been closed for basic security measures and to prevent these planes overflying Caracas from landing there.

[Reporter] Is the highway linking Caracas to the coast—Caracas to La Guaira—blocked?

[Zambrano] That is not true. Traffic in the city is normal. Obviously, there is little traffic because most of the people have remained at home.

[Reporter] What security measures has the Venezuelan Government taken regarding the embassies in Caracas? It is said that several politicians are requesting asylum in embassies. What is the situation?

[Zambrano] I think there is a lot of exaggeration and speculation. The political leaders of the country's main parties are appearing on television Channel 10. I am watching the channel right here in my office and I see a prominent politician of an opposition party making statements. Therefore, what you said is mere speculation. Nothing indicates that any of the country's leaders are interested in taking asylum in the embassies.

[Reporter] Is President Perez going to attend the Rio summit?

[Zambrano] His participation was approved by the Senate some days ago. Therefore, the president is prepared to go. Nevertheless, even though the country's situation is totally under control, one cannot determine the exact date and hour of the president's trip.

[Reporter] The international news agencies and the Venezuelan media have mentioned that eight to 10 people have died. What is the official government information?

[Zambrano] So far, there is no definite number, but there must be around five or six dead, especially in the state-owned television Channel Eight, which was the first objective of the subversive groups that entered the station and provoked this confrontation, leaving probably five or six dead.

[Reporter] Has the government considered adopting special measures and suspending some constitutional guarantees, as occurred on 4 February?

[Zambrano] That has not been ruled out. The main duty of the government, obviously, is to guarantee the defense of the democratic system and any measure of this type is possible. Nevertheless, I insist that so far the situation

has been neutralized. There is communication between the country's garrisons and Miraflores Presidential Palace so up to now such a suspension of constitutional guarantees has not been necessary.

[Reporter] An EFE dispatch has just indicated that officials of the Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services have entered Radio Rumbos with the intention of closing it down. In addition, station president Andres Serrano has opposed this and has said he will continue reporting unless the government imposes press censorship. Has the government thought of imposing press censorship?

[Zambrano] We have not considered imposing press censorship, but it is not ruled out that we will establish a radio and television network to study, in these circumstances, the various statements broadcast to prevent confusion and to prevent a situation that no one wants in the country.

[Reporter] How many planes do the rebels have?

[Zambrano] From what we can observe from our office, there are two planes still flying over some targets, especially La Carlota air base.

[Reporter] Are there orders to shoot down those planes?

[Zambrano] Yes, the orders have been issued because the rebels were given a long time to surrender.

Situation in Merida Reportedly 'Calm'

PA2711163392 Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 1521 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Report by Juan Carlos Urbina in Merida]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The situation in Merida is totally calm. There are many people in the streets supporting the insurrection. I repeat, there are many people, especially university students, who have come out onto the streets with flags and posters of Commander Chavez Frias. The [name indistinct] street is filled. Curious things have been occurring in this city. The Army has not come out. The National Guard, with the state police, are guarding the city. The National Guard has acted very respectfully toward the people in the streets. The people shout slogans in support of the Bolivarian Movement and the guardsmen pass them by without doing anything. This is unprecedented in the city.

Merida State Governor Jesus Rondon Nuceti has issued a communique calling on the people to remain calm and, of course, in support of the national government in these difficult hours for Venezuela.

Government Establishes State of Emergency 27 Nov

PA2711162492 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1602 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] Caracas, 27 Nov (EFE)—The Venezuelan Government on 27 November established a state of emergency and suspended a number of constitutional guarantees due to a military rebellion that began at 0800 GMT.

Constitutional Rights Suspended

PA2711230692 San Cristobal Ecos del Torbes in Spanish 2220 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] For the information of the people in general, it is advisable to explain that the constitutional guarantees that have been suspended refer to the following:

The guarantee of public meeting is suspended. The right to demonstrate is suspended. The guarantee of freedom of transit on the national territory is suspended. The guarantee on the measures concerning individuals who are considered dangerous is suspended.

The guarantee on freedom of expression is suspended. The guarantee on the inviolability of private residences is suspended. The guarantee whereby no one can remain under arrest after an order of release has been issued has also been suspended.

The guarantee whereby no one can be deprived of his freedom is suspended. The guarantee that establishes no one can be imprisoned without a written order is also suspended.

Interior Minister Comments

PA2711165592 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1559 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Text] [First unidentified announcer] The first decrees suspending constitutional guarantees are being read in Caracas, Venezuela:

[Begin recording] [Interior Minister Luis Pinerua Ordaz, in progress] ...thus, there is no danger involved. They embarked on an adventure. We will announce the suspension of constitutional guarantees. We beg all Venezuelans to support our efforts to save democracy at all costs, because we do not want another dictatorship. We will prevent this at all costs.

[Unidentified reporter] Minister, [words indistinct] shooting on the avenue?

[Pinerua] I am fulfilling my duties. I will do so anywhere I happen to be as interior minister. [end recording]

[First announcer] Thanks very much to Rafael Angel Garcia for bringing us those statements by Interior Minister Luis Pinerua Ordaz regarding the position assumed by his ministry toward the developments on the morning of 27 November. As you know, Transportation

and Communications Minister Fernando Martinez Mottola moments ago read a decree suspending constitutional guarantees; this was signed at the Miraflores Palace by President Carlos Andres Perez. This decree takes effect immediately and must be ratified by the National Congress. At any rate, we will give details later on the articles of this decree pertaining to the suspension of constitutional guarantees.

[Second unidentified announcer] Caracol Network predicted this: Constitutional guarantees were suspended in Venezuela for 10 days. This also happened on 4 February when another coup d'etat was thwarted. The media will be censored and constitutional guarantees are suspended in Venezuela.

There is a more very important news that no media or international news agency has reported so far. I am talking about the statements moments ago by Armando Bueno from La Carlota Airport, the base occupied by the rebels. Four planes were there; two were downed. There are a total of four. They are obtaining fuel supplies at the Palo Negro Military Base, 20 km from Caracas. This is the country's most important military base.

There is another revealing and significant piece of news: Some Venezuelan Army troops are supporting the Venezuelan Air Force rebels. The situation is very complicated. There is media censorship, constitutional guarantees were suspended, and there is rebellion, not only at La Carlota, but at the Palo Negro Military Base.

Foreign Minister Reports on Situation

LD2711162192 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Excerpt] In Venezuela, the rebels who this morning seized the state television station gave themselves up just under an hour ago, according to a report from the republic's attorney general. The Miraflores Palace, the seat of the presidency, has again been bombed by rebel forces. According to a report from Radio Rumbos, groups of rebels have managed to advance on the palace, which is suffering serious armed attacks. The police are trying to disperse groups of supporters of the putschists who have gone into the streets. The capital's airport has also been the object of renewed bombing by the rebels.

In statements to Spanish radio, Foreign Minister Fernando Ochoa has said the situation is returning to normal and several rebel aircraft have been shot down.

[Begin Ochoa recording] The situation is rapidly returning to normal. An airbase—the Libertador base in Maracay, Aragua State—rebelled during the night and some aircraft have been overflying Caracas and attacking a number of military targets and the Miraflores Palace. Of the six aircraft that have been overflying, four have been shot down and there are two aircraft that at the moment cannot be seen over Caracas—we presume they must have withdrawn to some base nearby, outside the country or in Venezuela itself. There have been some small-scale clashes. What has happened is that there have been clashes between the aircraft to which I am referring and forces loyal to the government throughout the entire city of Caracas. In fact, there were clashes between the aircraft and ground forces with just a few injured, just a few bombs that have fallen close to the Miraflores Palace without further consequence. As I can tell you because I am here in the President's office, the president is himself directing the entire situation and there is a complete tendency toward normality. [end recording] [passage omitted]

DISIP Attempts To Shut Down Radio Rumbos

PA2711172792 Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Excerpts] [Station Announcer Alexis] We have already reported what is going on here. Here is Jesus Perez, secretary general of the press association. Jesus, what are your impressions regarding the current situation at the station, now that Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services [DISIP] officials have come to try to silence this transmission, which is practically being carried on a national network.

[Perez] This is an outrage against freedom of expression by some DISIP officials, who in a rude manner are at Radio Rumbos to try to prevent it from exercising a constitutional right that is consecrated in Article 66 of our Constitution. The rude and violent way in which these DISIP officials behave greatly contradicts the position of the national government. On behalf of the press association, I have just demanded an explanation regarding the DISIP officials' behavior. The only response I received is that I should be careful or else I will be arrested because they are following government orders. I do not believe this is an order from the president.

[Alexis] Neither do I. The president (?knows) we formed a radio network for him to talk to the entire country. We aired a fairly long interview with him. Political leaders of all affiliations have come to Radio Rumbos or have called us to air their opinions. [passage omitted] We do not understand what would be achieved by the closing of the station. If anyone has been democratic today, it has been Radio Rumbos.

[Perez] I believe this is merely another attempt to scare the press and keep it from carrying out its functions. I believe the national government is again making a mistake. I would like to take advantage of this opportunity to ask both the national government and the Bolivarian Movement to show complete respect for the security of reporters. I ask the Venezuelan people to cooperate and help the reporters carry out their job. [passage omitted]

[Alexis] Here are the DISIP members who have come to Radio Rumbos to shut down the station. Listeners: The station is about to be shut down! We have problems. Our signal is going to be taken off the air arbitrarily by force. [Woman screams in background: The station is being

closed! The station is being closed! No, no! Man shouts in background: This is an outrage by the national government.] Please! This is an outrage by the government. Here is a government official perpetrating an outrage. Get out of the station! Get out of this station! You are not a democrat, you are a dictator! Please get out of this station! You are not a democratic official, sir, you are a dictator! You are closing a democratic station, and we are going to oppose this even if we are arrested. We are not going to let this station, the voice of the people, be shut down. [unintelligible screams continue in the background] At this moment DISIP members are trying to break down the door to take us off the air.

People of Venezuela, Mr. Interior Minister, our rights are being trampled on at this very minute. The door is being broken down to take us off the air. I ask the Venezuelan people to let their voices be heard by calling....

[Unidentified announcer from a second Radio Rumbos studio, interrupting] Dear listeners, as you have just heard, at this moment DISIP members are breaking down the door of Radio Rumbos' studio one trying to prevent the airing of all the reports we have been broadcasting to all of Venezuela since early this morning. The DISIP officials are arbitrarily repressing the employees of Radio Rumbos, which is carrying out its informational tasks.

[Station announcer Alexis from Studio One] Yes, dear listeners, we are the victims of an outrage. They are trying to shut down our station. We call on the interior minister and on the transportation and communications minister. We are being victimized. DISIP members are beating us. [Woman screams in background: This is an outrage! unintelligible screams and noises in background] Identify yourself! Don't be a coward! You are a miserable coward! Tell us your name! Listeners: We are being victimized. We reporters are being trampled on by a DISIP thug, by government workers who do not understand a reporter's mission. These are undemocratic public officials. They are dictators. They have destroyed the station's microphones. They are being led by a thug who will have to face us in the courts because we are going to act democratically and take this to the courts. This is an outrage, a dictatorial outrage against a democratic station.

Yes, dear listeners. DISIP officials broke into Radio Rumbos and perpetrated an outrage against station officials and against all the reporters here. The transportation and communications minister must come here to Radio Rumbos. They went into one of our studios and practically destroyed the microphones. Rafael Carreno is the DISIP official who was in charge. Listen well, people of Caracas. DISIP official Rafael Carreno has arbitrarily broken into Radio Rumbos and destroyed our microphones. He will have to face the democratic people of this country in the courts of our judicial system. I cannot believe this has occurred. This is a sad, tragic occurrence for Venezuelan journalism. It is a deplorable occurrence for the Venezuelan democratic system. We have been reporting on events in the country. There was no reason for this outrage. We are democrats; they are not. That Rafael Carreno is practically a dictator, he entered our station by force, but we have managed to repel them and we will continue transmitting.

[Unidentified female announcer] Attention, all Radio Rumbos reporters. Maintain your positions. We are going to continue reporting. There is still one microphone at the studio that is working and so we will continue reporting. Attention, Radio Rumbos reporters. Maintain your positions.

Official Explains DISIP Actions

PA2711175892 Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 1524 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Interview with (Raul Giuseppi), secretary to Interior Affairs Minister Luis Pinerua, by unidentified station reporters at the station—live]

[Excerpt] [(Giuseppi)] Minister Pinerua has sent me to say that [words indistinct] situation due to the very small group which has tried to attack democracy and the Venezuelan Government. That is why you Alexis [no last name provided], as an objective journalist, who not only enjoys the respect of the public but also of the government...[pauses] if there is something we must admit, it is that in Venezuela there is democracy. Many times we are questioned [words indistinct] they say we are too soft with journalists who are alarming the people. I do not think we can stoop to that level. We must respect free speech, but at this time of confusion in the country, the media should play a role of orienting and informing the public. You have been doing so with much objectivity but we want to ask you, Alexis...

[Alexis, interrupting] We understand Raul, but they sent us [words indistinct]. If you had come first, you would have saved us the destruction of [word indistinct]. They sent us some officials of the Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services [Disip] who are really...

[(Giuseppi) interrupting] Minister Pinerua and President Perez... [pauses] Minister Pinerua ordered me to come here to talk to you...

[Alexis interrupting] Will the station be closed?

[(Giuseppi)] The station will not be closed, but we ask you to please remain calm. The government controls the situation. The government...

[Alexis, interrupting] Then why did it act the way it did?

[(Giuseppi)] The confusion in the country is so seriousness that much more regrettable situations could occur. This is what we want to prevent.

[Alexis] We want to prevent a civil war.

[(Giuseppi)] Let us not follow the path of the Colombianization of Venezuelan politics. Venezuela is a country

of peace and calm. Venezuela is a country in which there is freedom of the press. What you are doing today is precisely the exercise of that freedom.

[Alexis] But they committed an outrage against us.

[(Giuseppi)] On behalf of the government and Minister Pinerua, I want to apologize, but as men committed to democracy and as true democrats, I want to ask you to cooperate.

[Unidentified female reporter] But we are cooperating by informing the people.

[(Giuseppi)] You have reported from the interior that the situation is normal. That is the situation in the entire country.

[Female reporter] It is normal. We have said it.

[Unidentified reporter] [Words indistinct]

[(Giuseppi)] That is practically part of the confusion which exists at this time.

[Female reporter] The Disip official said the orders were issued by the interior affairs minister.

[(Giuseppi)] We will evaluate that later, but the important thing at this time when things are returning to normal is that we all cooperate. Look Alexis...

[Several reporters, interrupting] [Words indistinct]

[(Giuseppi)] We give you guarantees that the station will not be closed, but we do ask you to please cooperate with the government and democracy.

[Female reporter] [Words indistinct] was beaten.

[Unidentified reporter] On behalf of the press union, I just want to tell Raul, a high-ranking government official, that what we have seen in Radio Rumbos has been a savage outrage against journalists and the station director.

[Alexis] Radio Rumbos is fulfilling a constitutional duty to inform the people.

[(Giuseppi)] Of course, we do not object to that, but what we cannot permit is that [words indistinct]. That is what we want to control so the citizens will be well informed and calm and so that normalcy will return to the country and we can work. That is what the Venezuelan people want.

[Unidentified reporter] This new coup attempt has shown that the people are not supporting this group of [word indistinct] who want to overthrow the government.

[Alexis] They do not have any support from Radio Rumbos. The only thing Radio Rumbos has done is report the truth to Venezuela. The president, the minister, and the political parties have spoken over this station [words indistinct]. What is subversion is what some Disip officials have done by [words indistinct].

[(Giuseppi)] I have come to make the necessary apologies, but let us not permit the adventurers and the politickers to use this situation to continue to disrupt public order. [Words indistinct] these enemies of democracy do not have any popular support. The people are very alert to what happens to democracy and their president. There will be investigations. [passage omitted]

Perez Explains Situation in Interview

PA2711183092 Caracas Televen Canal 10 in Spanish 1653 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Telephone interview with President Carlos Andres Perez "from his office in Miraflores Palace" by unidentified reporter "early on the morning of 27 November"—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] You are on the air with Televen. Please go ahead.

[Perez] I would like to send a message of optimism and trust to the people of Venezuela. This morning there was an attempt to duplicate the events of 4 February. It was staged by the same perpetrators of the 4 February incident, but now with the participation of the extremist groups Red Flag and Third Path. They have attempted to take us by surprise. The Armed Forces have responded with dignity and the same loyalty they displayed on 4 February.

There is nothing to fear. Nevertheless, the people must be aware of everything that has transpired. The attempt was made basically by civilian sectors, who took over the area where three Caracas television signals transmit: Los Mecedores in Catia. From this point they transmitted a recorded message from the leader of the 4 February rebellion. They had this message for a long time. The Army is already taking the necessary steps to regain control of Los Mecedores in Catia. They also managed to surprise the commander of the airport of the Libertador Air Base, but Army troops from Maracay are already surrounding the air base.

These are the only two serious or significant locations the group of extremist civilians, with the help of a small group of Armed Forces officers, have managed to control during this antidemocratic and criminal attack. This is all that is occurring. Here, above Miraflores Palace, a group of subversives from the extremist movement passed by the corner of Bolero and machine-gunned a group of soldiers and a noncommissioned officer. Three soldiers fell, but the three subversives who carried out this criminal attack were apprehended following their attempt to kill Armed Forces soldiers.

The Venezuelan people are assured everything is under control. The government has the certainty that all Venezuelans, without any partisan distinctions, stand alongside the democratic government. For the time being,

there is no great degree of danger. We ask all Venezuelans to remain calm and go to their offices and their regular workplaces because the Armed Forces are going to respond to the treacherous attitude of this aftermath of the 4 February coup.

[Reporter] Mr. President: Can you tell the Venezuelan people the significance of the airplanes that overflew the capital one hour ago?

[Perez] Hello?

[Reporter] Mr. President: Can you hear me?

[Perez] Yes, I can hear you.

[Reporter] Can you tell the Venezuelan people the significance of the airplanes that 30 minutes or one hour ago....

[Perez, interrupting] Hello, hello?

[Reporter] Can you explain to the Venezuelan people the significance of the airplanes that overflew the capital one hour ago?

[Perez] Certainly. As is well known, three Mirage planes overflew Caracas this morning. These three planes were from the Libertador Air Base and were manned by people from the subversive group. Everyone can rest assured the Air Force is loyal to democracy and the Venezuelan people. The Mirage squadrons in Barquisimeto will be able to handle any airplane that might take off from the seized Libertador Air Base to try to cause psychological damage in Caracas or any other region in the country.

We Venezuelans must bear in mind that—just like on 4 February—what is at stake is not a government or a party, but Venezuelan democracy. Just like on 4 February, the Venezuelan president will know how to respond with dignity and valor to this attack. We can already say this subversive movement is completely under control, that its efforts are in vain, and the Armed Forces have once again demonstrated their loyalty to the Venezuelan people.

[Reporter] Thank you, Mr. President, for this exclusive interview directly [words indistinct].

[Perez] Thanks to you. The Los Mecedores area will soon be under control. A video was recorded from this point a long time ago and was transmitted to try to create the sensation the subversives had gained control of the country.

I am talking to you from my office in Miraflores Palace.

[Reporter] Thank you, Mr. President.

President Addresses Nation, Says Country 'Calm'

PA2711232892 San Cristobal Ecos del Torbes in Spanish 2230 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Address to the nation by President Carlos Andres Perez in Caracas on 27 November—recorded]

[Text] I address the nation, all my fellow countrymen, and the foreigners who live on our territory to report that the situation is fully under control. There is only one area of unrest. It is practically the only one responsible for the events we have experienced, meaning the seizure of the El Libertador Base in Maracay, from which Bronco and Tucano planes took off with plans to bomb Caracas and bomb the airport of the Barquisimeto military base. La Carlota, which had been initially seized by the rebels, was retaken by the government. No Army garrison has participated in any subversive action against democracy and the Constitution. No garrison or corps of the Navy or the Air Force have participated, with the exception of this serious action at the Libertador base, about which I have informed you.

There have been some casualties resulting from shrapnel injuries from the bombs dropped by the planes and some dead, but I still have no information about them. Three soldiers and one sublieutenant from the Honor Guard Regiment were cruelly and brutally executed by the subversive groups that approached Bolero Street and took these three [number as heard] soldiers of the Venezuelan Army by surprise. They tied them up and killed them. The killers are from the extremist Red Flag and Third Path groups. They are the remnants of the subversion we experienced in the 1960's. This is a movement like the one of 4 February, but with extremist origins. I can tell you with total certainty that this is a last ditch attempt in the wake of the 4 February events. The few officers who did not participate on that occasion are now openly united with the extremist civilian groups and have tried to repeat the surprise of 4 February.

I can announce to you that the Libertador base has been surrounded by Army troops and that tanks are advancing to seize it. There are no longer acts of subversion anywhere in the country. Caracas is calm and so is the entire country. The Venezuelan people, honoring their democratic tradition, are firmly supporting Venezuelan democracy and their government. I want to say that the minister of transportation and communications and the minister of the Presidency Secretariat have read the decree issued early this morning by the Council of Ministers. It was necessary to control the actions of the extremist subversive groups that were planning to provoke disturbances in the streets of Caracas and other cities of the country to support the action they thought would be a large-scale military action. The Armed Forces reacted with firmness and loyalty to the Constitution and the government.

We Venezuelans can feel calm. We only feel shame that the international community was startled this morning by this new attempt to attack our democracy. I have

received messages from all sectors of Latin America and Europe. Their presidents have addressed Miraflores to express their solidarity. The OAS has placed itself on alert to support the Venezuelan Government. Therefore, we have the solidarity of the entire world. We must be grateful and apologize, on behalf of our fellow countrymen, for this regrettable and shameful spectacle that again startled the people and tried to destroy our country's constitutional and democratic legitimacy. We must also stress with pride the loyalty of the entire Armed Forces, with the exceptions I have already mentioned. Naturally, constitutional guarantees have been suspended due to the need to control this rebel group, which is the same group that has been causing certain disturbances over the past few weeks.

All my countrymen can be sure that, with firmness and loyalty to our commitments, we are always working within the framework of democratic legality. I ask the political parties to continue their electoral campaign because the elections will be held as scheduled on 6 December to show the world that in Venezuela democracy has not been altered, not even temporarily. Thank you.

Interior, Defense Ministries Establish Curfew

PA2711200092 San Cristobal Ecos del Torbes in Spanish 1914 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Resolution No. 517 issued by the Interior affairs and defense ministers in Caracas on 27 November]

[Text] The Interior Affairs and Defense Ministry Directorates General issue Resolution No. 517 dated 27 November 1992:

In keeping with Decree 2,668 dated 27 November 1992 suspending certain constitutional guarantees in the national territory, including free transit and movement granted by Article 64 of the Constitution, and because it is the duty of the national chief executive to preserve full validity of democratic institutions, lives of citizens, and public order,

Resolves:

Beginning on 27 November free transit or movement of people and vehicles is banned in the national territory from 1800 to 0600 [2200 to 1000 GMT]. Garrison chiefs and commanders will grant safe-conducts required by professionals of the medical field and their aides, firefighters, and members of civil defense groups, and for the transit of vehicles transporting basic staples.
[Signed] Interior Affairs Minister Luis Pinerua Ordaz and Defense Minister Ivan Dario Jimenez

Maracay Air Force Base Still in Rebel Hands

PA2711202792 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2004 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Report by Alfonso Navarro]

[Text] Violent clashes and exchanges of fire between loyal forces and rebels continued in Maracay, western Venezuela, at 1550 (1950 GMT) on 27 November where rebel forces have control over the largest air force base in the country.

Telephone reports from that city, located 100 km west of the capital, said an undetermined number of injured people remained in the streets following a series of bombings by rebel planes.

A journalist from EL ARAGUENO newspaper said some armed civilian groups were supporting the rebels, but most residents were staying home.

Maracay, the capital of Aragua State, is the home of Libertador Air Force Base, which along with the Air Force Command in Caracas were the leading promoters of this new coup attempt, to overthrow President Carlos Andres Perez.

The situation was more critical at Libertador Air Force Base, where loyal forces were trying to regain control of the situation, and at the main installations of the Venezuelan Military Industries Corporation (CAVIM), both based in Maracay.

Perez Praises Armed Forces' Loyalty

PA2711212792 San Cristobal Ecos del Torbes in Spanish 2028 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Speech by Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez; place not given—live or recorded; broadcast in progress]

[Text] ...the important thing is that it was clearly established what we had said on 4 February, that the subversive groups, the extremist groups, were the ones behind this attempted coup against democracy. It is now clear that the groups that supported this movement, which is the tail end of 4 February, are identified with the extremist forces that tried to wage guerrilla warfare in 1960 and which now, through terrorism, tried to create a situation of anguish for Venezuelans.

Venezuelans and foreign friends who live in our fatherland, we are ashamed by this event, which has again given the international community the idea or possibility that a coup against democracy could take place in Venezuela.

At the same time, however, we are pleased and proud that the Armed Forces have given this unanimous demonstration of solidarity. Therefore, we are now able to say that with the exception of the (Salbates) garrison, where the commanders were surprised by this group of men who rebelled against the people of Venezuela, all of the Armed Forces remained completely loyal. At no time was there the slightest doubt of this loyalty that we must now praise, as I have done, along with the civic attitude of the Venezuelan people.

We must now mend this sorrowful wound in our hearts after this unspeakable trap by a handful of military who

were involved in 4 February but did not dare to take action, and now they tried, with the support of the extremist forces, to conduct a surprise attack on Venezuelan democracy.

We have the elections ahead, and this was a coup against the elections slated for 6 December. With respect and friendship I tell all the political parties to continue with their election campaigns. We are aware of their discipline and willingness to participate in a democratic struggle, and the 6 December elections must be the best example of the Venezuelan people's defense for their democratic institutions and freedom.

Information on all the names and circumstances surrounding this shameful incident will be made known later. This incident, I repeat, embarrasses us before the international community. However, I want the whole world to know about the exemplary conduct of our people and Armed Forces.

Thank you, and every Venezuelan may rest assured about our adherence to legal principles, norms, and the national Constitution as a whole. You can also rest assured those responsible for this attack on our tranquility, and those responsible for the deaths of innocent people and the loss of valuable Armed Forces equipment and weapons, will be punished with extreme severity, because no other answer is applicable at this moment. However, this will be done according to the law and fully respecting human dignity.

OAS Resolution Supports Perez Government

PA2811025492 San Cristobal Ecos del Torbes in Spanish 0205 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] The special OAS meeting held on the afternoon of 27 November flatly expressed its viewpoint on the situation in Venezuela. In his visit to Venevision, Foreign Minister Fernando Ochoa Antich described the main points of the OAS resolution. This is a summary of the resolution.

First, the resolution immediately and strongly rejects and condemns the coup attempt.

Second, the resolution expresses unconditional support for the constitutional government in solidarity with President Carlos Andres Perez and the Venezuelan people.

Third, the resolution repudiates all those who forcefully attempt to usurp the people's sovereignty and cut short the operation of a democratic government.

Fourth, the OAS member states affirm their determination to respect and reinforce the principle of solidarity in accordance with the OAS, and state that there is no longer room for regimes of force in the hemisphere.

This resolution will be presented to the United Nations for endorsement by that organization.

Military Forces on Alert To Prevent Looting

PA2811030192 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Telephone report by Norberto Mazza in Caracas—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] State security forces and the Army's intelligence divisions are on alert given the possibility of looting in the early morning hours, perpetrated by groups that are encouraged by the far-left movements that reportedly participated in the foiled coup d'etat against the administration of President Carlos Andres Perez.

It is still difficult to calculate the damage inflicted on the country in human lives and public property. We know the Air Force will carry out commando operations during the night in an effort to locate a heavily armed Mirage fighter and a Hercules C-130 transport plane with troops that are presumably hidden somewhere on the national territory. The Armed Forces are on the alert because the missing aircraft's firepower is quite devastating.

The landing strip at the Generasilimo de Miranda Air Base at La Carlota Airport, located in downtown Caracas, has been covered with buses to prevent a surprise landing by the Hercules or the Mirage in an attempt to retake the base.

We have been able to confirm a report: More than 300 students have been arrested by the Armed Forces at the Central University of Venezuela. The arrested include student leaders. We also know heavy damage and a heavy loss of human lives has been inflicted in the Barquisimeto, capital of Lara State, located 400 km from Caracas, in the eastern central area of the country. [passage omitted]

Zambrano Says Only One Rebel Group Still Resisting

LD2811034392 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 27 Nov 92

[Studio interview with Venezuelan Information Minister Angel Zambrano by unidentified correspondent—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [correspondent] We return to the subject that has stirred the world's attention today: the attempted coup d'etat in Venezuela. [passage omitted]

We have Venezuelan Information Minister [as heard] Angel Zambrano on the line. Good evening, Minister Zambrano.

[Zambrano] Good evening.

[Correspondent] What is the situation now in Venezuela following this attempted coup d'etat?

[Zambrano] At the moment there is in effect only one small subversive nucleus, which is situated in the State of

Aragua—capital city is Maracay—which is approximately 75 minutes from Caracas by car. This nucleus has taken refuge at the Libertador air base, but they are totally surrounded by forces loyal to the government. It is hoped that within two hours they will have totally surrendered as they have no way out.

[Correspondent] The news arriving this afternoon and evening made us fear the worst because the presidential palace itself was bombed several times. Was there any significant damage?

[Zambrano] Three Bronco military fighter aircraft left from that very Libertador base of which I am speaking and they flew over Caracas and fired some shots at the Miraflores Palace but without any significant damage. This coincided with an attempt to enter the palace by a small group, which incidentally in a totally despicable manner slaughtered an officer and three soldiers who were guarding the entrance to Miraflores Palace.

[Correspondent] Have you any figure now as to the number of victims today?

[Zambrano] At the moment it is impossible to determine that; in principle we know that, so to speak, that the number of dead does not reach 12. However, I will leave it [?open]. The fact may be there may have been some, but so far it is impossible to determine. These deaths occurred mainly at the state Canal 8 station, which was the first point this rebel group took. When they met opposition from civilian security personnel they were despicably murdered by these forces, who in effect took over the station and broadcast some video cassettes with a recorded message from a supposed military movement identified with the one which appeared on 4 February.

[Correspondent] Who might be behind this group, which is trying for a second time, even with statements by Chavez himself, who is under arrest for the previous coup attempt?

[Zambrano] Yes, that's right. Chavez, who was the leader of the foiled 4 February coup, has apparently found solidarity on this occasion from extremist, subversive groups known as Red Flag and Point Zero. These groups are identified with the Marxist doctrine, to the maximum extent. These groups have not found an electoral place in the Venezuelan democratic process and have now taken refuge in the shadow of this small group of officers who on 4 February were arrested in a coup attempt. [passage omitted]

Transportation, International Flights Resume

PA2811134592 San Cristobal Ecos del Torbes in Spanish 1322 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Report by Jose Vicente Hart Marques]

[Text] I report that the subway—the main transportation system in Caracas—has reopened, and that national and international flights have resumed throughout the country.

The situation in Venezuela appears to be stable this morning.

Coup Attempt Leaders Issue Communique

PA2811135492 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1302 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] Caracas, 28 Nov (EFE)—The local press reported on 28 November that the 27 November coup attempt in Venezuela was led by five high-ranking officers representing the four branches of the Armed Forces.

The communique in which the rebels justified the coup attempt was signed by Vice Admirals Hernan Gruber Odreman and Luis Cabrera Aguirre (Navy), Division General Francisco Visconti Osorio (Air Force), Colonel Higinio Castro (Army);, and Lieutenant Col. Alejandro Coleoglu Dore (National Guard).

Vice Adm. Gruber Odreman is mentioned as the coup leader. Gen. Visconti Osorio traveled to Peru on 27 November in an Air Force plane with a group of soldiers to request political asylum.

The rebel officers' communique said "the crisis in Venezuela has reached its highest level," and stressed "there is no justice" in the country, where "obscene privileges" prevail.

In the communique, the rebel leaders said the action was not against "the institutional order," but against "the regime of Carlos Andres Perez," who they described as corrupt.

Defense Ministry Communique on Rebels 'Surrender'

PA2811142092 Paris AFP in Spanish 0535 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] Caracas, 28 Nov (AFP)—The Defense Ministry issued a communique confirming the surrender of the "alleged leaders" of the 27 November military uprising. The communique reports "they are currently under arrest."

The communique, which was signed by Defense Minister General Ivan Jimenez and transmitted by the official news agency VENPRES at 0420 GMT, did not mention the escape of rebel officers to Aruba and Peru.

The aforementioned reports were disclosed on the evening of 27 November by Caracas television stations, but there has been no official reaction.

The Defense Ministry communique reports that in addition to seizing the state-owned television station in Caracas, the rebels controlled Libertador Air Base and Sucre Air Base in Maracay, 70 km west of Caracas.

The "Bronco," "Tucano," and "Mirage" planes that on the morning and noon of 27 November bombed Miraflores Presidential Palace, the urban airport of La Carlota, the Military Aviation School, and the headquarters of the Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services (Disip) took off from the aforementioned bases.

The Defense Ministry communique highlights that the attacks caused "an unspecified number of dead and injured, including civilians who lived near the attacked locations."

Additionally, the communique affirms that the remaining corps of the Navy, Army, and Air Force remained under the control of the commands.

The communique does not refer to the rebellion of an Army unit in Victoria, 50 km west of Caracas, which was quickly put down by forces loyal to President Perez, official sources later confirmed.

President in Palace During Helicopter Attack

PA2811143292 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1358 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] Caracas, 28 Nov (EFE)—Miraflores Presidential Palace, located in downtown Caracas, was machine-gunned again on 28 November from a helicopter apparently manned by police defectors, according to radio stations.

Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez was in his office in the Palace at the time of the attack, which took place at 0930 (1330 GMT) and was repelled by the security guards.

In addition, the explosion of a rocket was heard in Caracas, which radio stations reported occurred in the vicinity of the Presidential Palace.

Also in the vicinity of the Palace, in the area of Baralt Avenue and Bolivar Square, the National Guard (militarized police) fired with long-range weapons at unspecified targets.

According to a television station, approximately 45 members of the "Lince" Special Operations Group of the Metropolitan Police on 27 November defected with their weapons in the middle of the coup attempt.

During the coup attempt on 27 November, the Miraflores Presidential Palace was attacked by planes seven times.

Official Denies Miraflores Palace Attacked 28 Nov

PA2811154292 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1501 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Report by Sonia Rodriguez]

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota—The Venezuelan Government has just denied through the Caracol Network that alleged military rebels machine-gunned the Miraflores Palace on the morning of 28 November.

Angel Zambrano, director of the Central Information Office, stated that all redoubts of the rebel movement are under control and the shots heard this morning were warnings by the Presidential Guard to a helicopter that overflew the Miraflores Palace.

[Begin Zambrano recording] There is absolute normalcy. I must report, however, that for unknown reasons, there was confusion when a state government helicopter overflew the Miraflores Palace. Obviously, there were warning shots as a basic security measure.

I also must mention that a few minutes ago a group of armed civilians attacked the Cajigal Observatory, located in the 23 January neighborhood, which is the military installation where the Hydrography Directorate of the Venezuelan Navy functions. I must stress, however, that everything is under control, and consequently we can say that the worst part of the 27 November subversive and regressive military coup has been totally neutralized. [end recording]

Zambrano added that the government of President Carlos Andres Perez has full control over the Venezuelan political and social situation.

President Perez Interviewed on Coup Attemp

LD2811150792 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 1304 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] [Announcer] We now have live on the line the president of Venezuela, Carlos Andres Perez. Mr. President, good afternoon in Spain, good morning there, I suppose:

[Perez] Good morning.

[Announcer] Mr. President, what is the situation in your country? Do you have everything perfectly under control following the failed coup attempt?

[Perez] First, let me take this opportunity to send you on behalf of the Venezuelan people fraternal greetings to the whole Spanish people.

I have to tell you that the situation is absolutely normal. The conduct of the Venezuelan people makes us feel proud because of the total repudiation it gave to the latest coup attempt, and because of the civic conduct which the Venezuelan community displayed amid yesterdays' events—above all the community of Caracas—given that in the interior of the republic absolute and full normality was maintained. All the shops, all the businesses, all activities were carried out normally. They were only interrupted in the capital of the republic and in the city of Maracay, where the focal point of the subversion was located at the Palo Negro airbase. But, today we Venezuelans feel very proud because of the conduct of the whole of the nation and, of course, we also feel very

ashamed in the eyes of international opinion because of the occurrence of this lamentable spectacle of another attack on democracy.

[Announcer] Mr. President, I asked you previously if you have everything perfectly under control, if the situation is tending toward normality at the present time in Caracas and, in general, in the main cities of Venezuela?

[Perez] I have told you that it is not that it is tending toward, but rather that the situation is absolutely normal—the entire situation in the whole of the country—and activities are taking place without interruption and without any kind of problems. Venezuela today is as though there had not been or existed...[pauses] as though absolutely nothing had happened yesterday—of course, with the shame of what happened and with the pain of the crimes which these madmen committed. [as heard]

[Announcer] Carlos Andres Perez, the people to which you referred earlier, the Venezuelan people, which have, you say, repudiated this coup attempt have also been its victim. Mr. President, do you know how many victims were caused by this military rebellion?

[Perez] You know that there was no ground fighting, that the action occurred above all as a result of the bombs and rockets launched by the aircraft which they used in the subversion, and with which they harassed the city of Caracas for several hours. However, there were, distressingly, some victims. For example, in the seizure of the state television channel, which they needed to use as a headquarters for their prompt public appearance, there was a series of 20 deaths of the television station's employees and security guards, including the dramatic and lamentable act in which three doormen at this organization knelt down asking them not to kill them, and they killed them on their knees. There was also a group of soldiers here in the Miraflores Palace, in the Guard of Honor Regiment, who died when they were killed by the explosion of a bomb from a Mirage. We still do not know because we are digging them out, but there are three or four dead.

There were some other situations of this kind, but we still do not have a figure for the number of dead, but all of them were caused basically as a result of the attacks from the air. The Armed Forces, the Army, all the garrisons—absolutely all Venezuela's garrisons—remained loyal to the government and the Constitution. [Announcer] Here on "Diario de las Dos" program we are speaking live to the president of Venezuela, Don Carlos Andres Perez.

Mr. President, what do you now intend to do with the militarymen who have fled to other countries, specifically Peru, the city of Iquitos? Are you going to ask the Peruvian Government, with which you do not have diplomatic relations at the present time, for the extradition of these fugitive militarymen?

[Perez] As I said yesterday in my address to the nation, the attitude of the government is to abide strictly by the Constitution and the law, be very severe with those who attacked the calm and the security of the democratic state, but we will abide strictly by the law, and we will do the same thing in international field. Our Foreign Minstry is already studying this situation in order to take the appropriate steps. We will act in full accord with Latin America; and if we have to hold some consultation we will appeal to the Rio Group, which is our Latin American consultation body.

[Announcer] Don Carlos Andres Perez, what consequences could the attempted coup d'etat have on the economy of the country and foreign investment at the present time?

[Perez] Fortunately, given that the events occurred, I believe that amid the tragedy and the pain it causes the consequences will be positive because the solidity of the Venezuelan democratic regime has been fully demonstrated.

[Announcer] Over the past few months, from different social and political sectors in your country, there have been ongoing requests to bring forward the next general elections, even from sectors within your own party. Are you thinking about this at present?

[Perez] No, that is past history and it is absolutely untrue. All the proposals that were made on this matter were rejected in the national Congress. They were rejected not only by the government party, but also by the main opposition party, and it has now died away completely. Also, when they submitted it to the Supreme Electoral Council, which is an institution, almost a power in Venezuela, it was defeated practically unanimously. Even those small parties on the Supreme Electoral Council, parties which have a voice but no vote, and which are all opposition parties, also voted against this proposal. [sentence as heard] That problem is no longer under consideration in the country.

[Announcer] That is to say you are thinking of seeing out your term of office completely, Mr. President?

[Perez] No, no. It is not that I am thinking of this, but that this is how it is going to be and this was demonstrated yesterday.

[Announcer] To conclude, Don Carlos Andres Perez, is there any connection between this coup attempt and the last one in February, or were they separate movements, not interconnected?

[Perez] Undoubtedly! On that occasion we already suspected that there was a group in the Air Force which was associated with the coup attempt, and we say this because the tanks which came from the city of Valencia 220 kms from Caracas—a tank unit which came here to support the 4 February movement—had been painted along the side with a broad white strip which indicated to us that there was something to protect them, so that the aircraft knew that they were their tanks. However, we were unable to penetrate this situation. On the other

hand, since then we have known that popular support for the movement—if we can speak of popular support—came from the extremists, that of the old guerrillas who continued to think about overthrowing the government by violent means; but civilians did not appear in that coup on 4 February, rather it seemed like a military coup, although we already knew who had written the proclamations and who had written the documents for the government they were going to form. They were people from the old extremist guerrilla groups of the sixties and seventies. Now, they were unmasked and they emerged, openly supporting the coupists in the streets. Here the movement did not have troops in any Venezuelan battalion, in any Venezuelan regiment, and those who supported them on the ground were the extremists, who have tried to maintain the revolutionary and violent [word indistinct] in Venezuela since the decade of the sixties. We could call this a positive aspect of yesterday's painful tragedy: that the subversive groups appeared at the side of the leaders of the 14 [figure as heard] February movement.

On the television screens, which, as you know, for technical reasons they seized the signal relay point in the Cerro del Aguila, and from there they broadcast for four hours and had in their hands Caracas' three most important television stations [sentence as heard]. In the background there were three extremists whom all Venezuelans could see and realize how the figures of the 14 [as heard] February movement were united with these extremist movements.

[Announcer] Don Carlos Andres Perez, constitutional president of Venezuela, thank you for answering the call from Spanish National Radio and may calm continue in the streets of your country's cities.

[Perez] Absolutely, Venezuela is an absolutely calm city [as heard]. All national and international flights, all the country's activities, which yesterday were carried out fully in the interior, are today being carried out fully throughout the country. Caracas is a calm city.

[Announcer] Mr. President, many thanks and good afternoon.

[Perez] Good afternoon and many thanks.

Soldiers Guard Several Newspaper Buildings

PA2811160792 Paris AFP in Spanish 1537 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] Caracas, 28 Nov (AFP)—The facilities of several Caracas newspapers are under military guard on 28 November after a coup attempt on 27 November, according to reporters.

The soldiers are asking those entering the buildings for identification. In some cases, soldiers are inside the buildings.

In view of the 27 November military coup attempt, the government of President Carlos Andres Perez suspended the main constitutional guarantees—including freedom of speech—and decreed a curfew.

A strong media censorship was established after a similar coup attempt headed by Army Commander Hugo Chavez in February.

Defense Minister Comments on Casualties, Arrests

PA2911165592 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1600 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Excerpt] Caracas, 29 Nov (EFE)—According to official reports, at least 169 persons were killed and approximately 1,200 were arrested as a result of the foiled 27 November coup d'etat in Venezuela.

Defense Minister General Ivan Dario Jimenez held a news conference early on the morning of 29 November and said the death toll so far is 142 civilians and 27 military—19 from the Army, three from the Air Force, and five from the National Guard (militarized police).

The figures may increase considerably when all the dead are counted and the media in Caracas said the number of people killed during the foil coup d'etat could be close to 250.

Gen. Jimenez was accompanied at the news conference by several high-ranking military commanders. He said 500 rebel officers and between 700 and 800 rebel soldiers have been arrested so far, but he gave no figures on arrested civilians. [passage omitted]

Interior, Defense Ministries Reduce Curfew Hours

PA2811205692 San Cristobal Ecos del Torbes in Spanish 1927 GMT 28 Nov 92

["Joint resolutions" issued by the Venezuelan Interior and Defense Ministries in Caracas on 28 November—read by announcer]

[Text] Interior Ministry, General Directorate, Resolution No. 518, dated 28 November 1992; Defense Ministry, General Directorate, Resolution No. 84-15, dated 28 November 1992:

Whereas Decree No. 2668 dated 27 November 1992, which suspends certain constitutional guarantees on the national territory, including the right to free movement contained in Article 64 of the Constitution and because it is the duty of the Executive Branch to preserve democratic institutions, the life of citizens, as well as public order, resolves:

To reduce, as of 28 November, between the hours of 2200-0500 [0200-0900 GMT], the prohibition of free transit or the movement of people in the entire national territory. This prohibition will not be applicable to state security forces.

The Interior Ministry and garrison commanders will grant safe- conducts that may be needed for the circulation of medical doctors and assistants, firemen, civil defense members, members of the media, and any other persons needing it for reasons of public interest according to the proper authorities.

The aforementioned hours will also be in effect for the movement of vehicles carrying staples.
[Signed] Interior Minister Luis Pinerua Ordaz
[Signed] Defense Minister Ivan Dario Jimenez Sanchez

Government Lifts Ban on Electoral Meetings

PA2811211392 San Cristobal Ecos del Torbes in Spanish 1924 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Decree No. 2670 issued by President Carlos Andres Perez in Caracas on 28 November—read by announcer]

[Text] Carlos Andres Perez, president of the republic, exercising his legal attributes in accordance with Decree No. 2668 of 27 November 1992, published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Venezuela No. 35,101, on that same date by the Council of Ministers:

Whereas:

That it is of high national interest to ensure the normal development of the election process convoked by the Supreme Electoral Council to take place on 6 December 1992, due to which it is necessary to facilitate the actions of political organizations, voter groups, and candidates seeking election to various state and municipal position;

That among others the guarantees of meetings and demonstrations established in Articles 71 and 115 of the Constitution have been suspended,

Has decreed:

Article 1. Permitted throughout the country are meetings and public events of an electoral nature that are convoked and conducted by political parties and voter groups that are participating in the electoral process scheduled to take place on 6 December 1992, as well as by candidates who have been legally postulated at the appropriate electoral organizations.

Article 2. The interior and defense ministers are in charge of executing this decree.

Given, signed, and sealed at Miraflores Palace on 28 November 1992, the 182d year of independence and the 133d year of federation.
[Signed] Carlos Andres Perez, president of the republic.

Helicopter With Rebel Police Reportedly Downed

PA2811155092 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1517 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] Caracas, 28 Nov (DPA)—A civilian helicopter was downed on the morning of 28 November by a helicopter gunship of the Venezuelan Army after deserters of the Metropolitan Police hijacked the helicopter and fired on the Miraflores Presidential Palace in the center of the Venezuelan capital.

According to Commander Jose Antonio Paez, chief of the presidential military staff, the helicopter fell in a residential zone of Catia District in western Caracas.

The Metropolitan Police reported that the pilot and copilot died in the incident, while 21 rebel policemen were arrested.

The policemen had rebelled at approximately 0930 (1330 GMT) and after seizing a civilian helicopter overflew the Presidential Palace. They strafed the Palace, but did not cause any casualties.

20 Members of Elite Police Force Arrested

PA2811195092 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1853 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] Caracas, 28 Nov (EFE)—The Venezuelan Government arrested on 28 November 20 policemen who participated in the 27 November unsuccessful coup attempt against Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, official sources have reported.

General Vinicio Barrios Puche, commander of the Metropolitan Police, said the policemen who were arrested are members of the "Z" Elite Group, from which 35 officers deserted to join the rebels.

Barrios Puche confirmed that a civilian helicopter "violated explicit norms" prohibiting aircraft from overflying the Miraflores Presidential Palace in downtown Caracas and was "shot down" by the presidential guard.

The Miraflores Palace was the scene once again of a confusing incident when snipers fired at the building, an action which was repelled by forces loyal to the government.

Preliminary media reports, confirmed by official sources, said the helicopter also opened fire on the Presidential Palace while an explosion was heard in the vicinity.

Journalists were evacuated from Miraflores as a preventive measure in view of the attack from various buildings located near the palace, eyewitnesses said.

Barrios Puche said the crew of the helicopter has not yet been identified, but radio stations identified them as Military Police deserters. Barrios Puche said some of these policemen were trained abroad to "act in emergency situations such as the rescue of hostages."

President Perez, who was working at the Miraflores Palace, granted an interview to EFE a short time later in which he denied the palace, which sustained seven air attacks on 27 November, was once again the target of the rebels.

"Nothing has happened here. Everything is all right here. Unfortunately these reports are caused by tension following incidents such as the ones on 27 November," Perez added.

Perez Issues Decree on Trial for Soldiers

PA2811210592 San Cristobal Ecos del Torbes in Spanish 1910 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Decree No. 2,669 issued by President Carlos Andres Perez on 27 November 1992—read by announcer]

[Text] The president of the republic and commander in chief of the Armed Forces and the defense minister to apply a special procedure specified in the Military Code of Justice on those who are found guilty of having committed crimes in the 27 November armed rebellion. [sentence as heard] Decree No. 2,669 of 27 November 1992.

Carlos Andres Perez, president of the republic, in keeping with Decree No. 2,668 of 27 November 1992 and Articles 28, 57, 58, and 353 of the Military Code of Justice, decrees:

Article 1. Apply the special procedure specified in Title Eight of the First Book of the Military Code of Justice in trials pertaining to crimes defined in Chapters 3 and 4 of the Third Title of the Second Book of that code that were committed during the armed rebellion of 27 November 1992.

Article 2: The defense minister will implement this decree.

Issued, signed, and sealed at Miraflores, on 27 November 1992, year 182 of our independence and year 133 of the federation.
[Signed] Carlos Andres Perez, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces; Ivan Dario Jimenez, defense minister.

Further on Trials for Coupists

PA2911220892 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2055 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Text] Caracas, 29 Nov (EFE)—The 500 officers and 700 soldiers detained in Venezuela following the 27 November failed coup d'etat will be tried for rebellion in summary trials and sentenced in less than 10 days, it was reported on 29 November.

The government of Carlos Andres Perez made this decision to prevent a situation similar to the case of Lieutenant Colonel Hugo Chavez and 11 other officers who are still in jail after the 4 February coup attempt.

Those officers are still awaiting trial, because according to ordinary military justice—which was applied to them—they cannot be sentenced before rendering a deposition, which they have refused to do thus far.

The Venezuelan Government is determined to act as quickly and firmly as possible against those responsible for the 27 November coup attempt, taking advantage of the people's repudiation of the violence used by the coupists.

Two presidential decrees issued on 28 November establish a maximum of two hours for the defense of the coupists, a maximum duration of three days for the trials, and expeditious court martial sessions.

According to Article 361 of the Military Code of Justice, the maximum duration for the trial could be only 10 days.

Nevertheless, as occurred with the participants in the February coup—approximately 300 of those implicated were released without a trial—the Venezuelan Government will take into consideration the degree of participation of each one.

President Perez said that those who participated in the coup attempt following orders from their superiors will not be judged.

Defense Minister Confirms Arrest of Coup Leaders

PA2911014792 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2347 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Text] Defense Minister Ivan Dario Jimenez Sanchez has confirmed the arrest of the leaders of the coup attempt perpetrated on 27 November. They are Vice Admiral Hernan Gruber Odreman and Vice Admiral Cabrera Aguirre. The procedures have already been initiated through the Foreign Ministry for the return to Venezuela of General Francisco Visconti Osorio and the officers who fled with him to Peru.

The defense minister said that 500 officers and NCOs and 800 soldiers have been arrested. He reiterated that the intelligence services were effective because for the past two months they have been observing this group of officers and when they knew they had been discovered they decided to move up the date of the coup, which had been planned for 30 November.

[Begin recording] [Jimenez] We had been following the connection between the subversive groups and the officers involved in the coup attempt. On the evening of 25 November a hunter battalion searching the southern part of (Simanacoa) detected a guerrilla camp where a Mr. Puerta Aponte was killed. Three people were wounded and are being questioned at this time; one of our soldiers was wounded. Fortunately his wound was not serious. We seized weapons, ammunition, medicine, and food at this camp.

[Unidentified reporter] What day was that?

[Jimenez] That was on the evening of 25 November. On 27 November when the airplane attack was under way, a subversive group attempted to occupy Saraza but they

were repelled by the National Guard. Five subversives were killed and two policemen were wounded. This confirms the relationship between the officers involved in the movement and the subversive groups that have gradually taken shape in the country. [end recording]

Government To Ask Peru To Return Rebel Soldiers

PA2911022792 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2347 GMT 28 Nov 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Fernando Ochoa Antich has announced that the Venezuelan consul in Lima has been instructed to ask the Peruvian Government to immediately return the C-130 airplane and the weapons used by the insurgents who landed in Iquitos, among whom are General Visconti, who is believed to have led the coup attempt.

The foreign minister added that he also requested the return of the cadets and soldiers because it is believed they followed instructions and are not responsible for the events. He said the diplomatic situation between Venezuela and Peru is hindering this process.

[Begin Ochoa Antich recording] It is unquestionable that our not having diplomatic relations with Peru has, in a certain way, hindered the talks. Nevertheless, Venezuela has a consulate in Lima and the consul is conducting the appropriate procedures. In addition to this I have spoken to certain foreign ministers and asked them to intervene to facilitate our talks with Peru and to consider the possible return to Venezuela of the officers who violated the Venezuelan Constitution. They are also responsible for the horrible events in Venezuela and they must return and be court martialed. [end recording]

Perez Speaks on Democracy, Coup Attempt

PA2911162492 Caracas Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 1455 GMT 29 Nov 92

[Speech by President Carlos Andres Perez to members of the cabinet, of the Executive Branch, and of the group In Defense of the Country, at Miraflores Palace in Caracas—live]

[Text] I received a telephone call on Saturday, 28 November, asking me to meet with a distinguished group of fellow countrymen who had met to discuss the situation that arose in the country as a result of this new coup attempt, and who wanted to inform me about the results of their discussions and to reaffirm to the head of state their strong solidarity with the democratic system. I gladly agreed to meet with them this morning. I now am greatly pleased to see here a large group of fellow countrymen, prominent figures in the country's life.

They have no political ties or specific affiliation with the national government. They are engaged in different activities and have different stances regarding the country's situation. Those circumstances further enhance their presence at Miraflores Palace and the remarks they have just made. In truth, the greatness of democracy lies in that it does not bind anyone to any specific system or way of thinking. It allows the full coexistence of all ideologies and permits discussions even with those who oppose democracy. That is why, despite human flaws, it constitutes the system of coexistence that makes it possible with the greatest degree of perfection to have a free society, that is, a democratic society.

There is no justification whatsoever for violence, preaching hatred, or confrontations that lead us to intransigent disputes. That is achieved [as heard] by having a full democracy, which is the system that has been governing Venezuela or guiding its destiny for over 30 years. This year, 1992, we have faced two coup attempts to destroy democracy. The two attempts had their origin in a military mafia or clique that was created 10 years ago—as the group leaders admitted—and that staged its first uprising to destroy democracy on 4 February. It used as an incentive the difficult situation Venezuelans have been experiencing these past three years, a result of economic circumstances plagued by errors and mistakes, for which all of us who have been active in the country's political life for many years bear the responsibility. Also sharing that responsibility are all sectors that in one way or another participated in Venezuela's daily activities for all those decades.

We do not evade this responsibility, but we must say the situation is the consequence of circumstances our country has experienced and that we have tried to correct in the past few years. We were partially successful. But we could not persuade the Venezuelan people that we worked in full faith and with the conviction that we have laid down a path of sincerity and courage to face our own mistakes, errors, and omissions. There is room in democracy for this, too. Democracy often permits confusion to result from open debate. But we should never permit democracy to draw the conclusion that violence is the road to or the solution of the problems that we have been experiencing.

We should ponder the fact that this coup attempt occurred barely 15 days prior to the election, when the Venezuelan people will elect state governors, mayors, and municipal councils through direct and secret ballot and mostly by uninominal vote. The rebellion occurred at a time when the electoral process, which will make it possible to change all authorities of the country by democratic means, was about to conclude. As soon as the regional and municipal elections are over, the electoral process to designate the president of the Republic and the deputies and senators should take place.

How can a coup attempt be justified, then? How is it possible to justify what the capital of the country had to suffer on 27 November? Planes bombed the presidential palace and La Carlota Air Base, filling with confusion and fear a population of 4 million and creating terrible uncertainty throughout the country. Humble Venezuelans, who did their jobs at a television station, at the

Honor Guard Regiment, and at other Venezuelan Armed Forces installations, were assassinated cowardly. This is inconceivable and intolerable and cannot be justified at all.

On 4 February, the circumstances were apparently different because only a certain number of the coupists, the group of soldiers who had plotted against the Constitution and democracy, took part in the attempt. This time, however, those who participated in the 4 February coup attempt were no longer in the Army, the Navy, or the National Guard.

All that remained was an Air Force group that had been involved in the 4 February events. This explains why the tank battalions that came from Valencia in the early morning hours of 4 February had been painted with a wide white stripe. The government and Armed Forces intelligence could not figure out who they were. They were supported by extremist groups, old guerrilla members left over from the times of guerrilla subversion. They had plotted with the military involved in the 4 February events and pledged not to act on that day. This time the coupists had no other land group, except the extremists, and they acted with them.

It pains us to say that undignified Armed Forces officers attacked from the air and their land support was provided by social scum from Venezuela—scum that has been linked to terror and crimes. That is why we should not be surprised by the executions, by the fact that they killed doormen after forcing them to kneel in front of the Channel 8 [Venezolana de Television Network] facilities, by the fact they handcuffed and assassinated three soldiers of the Honor Guard Regiment about three blocks from Miraflores Palace, or by the fact that they perpetrated any of these crimes. This is a situation that justifiably has angered the Venezuelan people.

I have referred to this because I believe it is necessary to urge all my fellow citizens to realize....[pauses] I do not want to invite them to carry out acts of vengeance or retaliation, and I do not want to justify any official measure that violates the Constitution and the law. Instead, I urge them to realize this is not the time to continue a hysterical... [pauses] excuse me, not hysterical, I used the wrong word. This is not the time to engage in a senseless debate that lacks a constructive goal.

When Lieutenant Colonel [Hugo] Chavez, who was arrested and charged with subversion and is now in a Venezuelan prison, appeared on television early on 27 November, he talked about the president's resignation or a reduction in the presidential term. We were told that we must destroy a system, a false democracy, and we that must create another one—theirs. We should not deceive ourselves. What we have here is not the process to reduce the presidential term or for the president's resignation. This will only precipitate chaos and tragedy in Venezuela. That is what I was never willing to do and what I will never be willing to do.

Hence, the unfortunate 27 February [date as heard] incident has shown us that the problem is caused by the ambition for power—and what an ambition! We even might use a trite phrase and say that the goal was, or is, to exchange civilization for barbarity; because what we saw on 27 November, my fellow countrymen, was barbarity. It was barbarity in every sense of the word.

I wish you could have seen the sad faces of the Air Force officers and men when they went to Maracay and saw that their own planes had attacked with fury the Military Flight School, where the cadets are. The planes destroyed the school almost completely. Some retired Armed Forces representatives also were at the school. They know that all Armed Forces' members are deeply proud of and protect with love their military academies. What reason could there be to attack the Military Flight School? All this indicates the degree of craziness and foolishness with which a very small sector of the Venezuelan Armed Forces have acted in 1992.

We should be deeply proud of the Armed Forces' firmness, staunchness, and democratic conviction. Not one man from any Venezuelan Army garrison backed those who plotted against democracy and freedom. Only a small group, the rest of those involved in the 4 February coup attempt, participated this time.

What about the people's behavior? Why did this attempt not start at 0200 but after 0500? Because the coupists believed the story that the people were anxious to destroy the democratic system and would go out into the streets against the government after hearing Commander Chavez's message aired over the three leading television stations. The coupists believed the people, crowding the streets, would have handed them power. But nothing of the sort happened.

When I addressed the countries of the world through the international media, I told them that I was ashamed of this barbaric uprising taking place in Venezuela. I also told them, however, that I was proud of the Venezuelan people's courageous and civic stand in this dramatic hour. The three television stations, with transmitters located in Los Mecedores and El Avila, which had been taken, broadcast Commander Chavez's message for more than three hours. But one also could see that Chavez had some civilian accomplices. So, while we feel the disgrace, disaster, and shame, we are glad to say that we are happy that the Venezuelan people could see what would have happened to the country if we had not had the determination and the courage to face and defeat, with the Armed Forces' and the people's support, this threat to our democracy.

This occasion, however, should not prompt us to ponder these negative facts. Instead, this is the time to call on everyone to practice understanding and democratic solidarity, not a false sense of unity where it becomes necessary to conceal what one thinks. Let everyone, with his own ideas, ideology, political interests, or whatever, in solidarity with the people and the strength of the

democratic system, join in completing this final stage of the constitutional term, so that the 6 December elections, as stated in the document delivered to me, can confirm throughout the country the Venezuelan people's faith in democracy. Let everyone cast his vote for whomever he wants so that the people do not have to lament afterward that someone who was not favored by the majority of the people was elected. In this way, the genuine representatives the people desire will be elected. This is what democracy has given us as a means and manner of understanding each other within our community and of joining in solidarity in a single force to create a political system: democracy. The parties must prepare for presidential elections next year, so that at that time, in the same manner, the people may elect whomever they wish to be president of the Republic. Let us hope that the appeal I have made so often can become a reality now: That the system of voting for individuals rather than by slate may be completed. Just as we are now going to use that system to elect more than one-half of the Council, let all the National Council be elected by that same voting system in the future. The president, of course, always is elected by the individual system, not only by each state, but by all the Venezuelan people. That is the legitimate representation that I bear as Venezuelan chief of state and that same legitimate representation, undiminished in any way, will be borne in the future by whomever is elected to serve another five-year constitutional term, as established by the Venezuelan Constitution.

Ladies and gentlemen: I wish to thank you very sincerely for your very spontaneous presence here for an audience that I quickly granted on request. I was not told who would be coming, only that they were people of different political persuasions, even adversaries of my government, who had come to say that all differences must be set aside when it is necessary to safeguard the basic principles of the Venezuelan democratic system. That is what I appreciate, what I wish to exalt at this time, and what allows me to speak in your name, distinguished Venezuelans. I ask all my compatriots of all parties to make an effort to implement, in this last phase of this constitutional period, the electoral process, without implying that anyone should renounce or lower any of the banners that are being raised regarding the manner in which the Republic should be led.

Finally, I wish to say that the suspension of constitutional guarantees will at no time represent a hindrance to the electoral process. On 28 November we partially restored two of the guarantees that had been suspended, and in the days to come we will reverse rapidly the process of the suspension of guarantees. This will ensure that the electoral process will not be undermined in any manner or form by possible impediments on the paths used by the parties or electoral groups to campaign among their supporters or to move around the country. I can guarantee, gentlemen, that the suspension of guarantees will not be an obstacle of any kind. Moreover, I assure you in the name of the people, who already have demonstrated this, that the immense majority of Venezuelans will not indulge in any positions or conduct that will obstruct the electoral process.

The calm with which our people supported this situation, especially the people in Caracas, who experienced hours of dreadful anxiety, demonstrated the falseness of all the exaggerations and all that has been said about the way the people might behave if they had absolute freedom to take to the streets.

Ladies and gentlemen, let us all be confident that Venezuelan democracy has been consolidated, that 27 November was another test to which we were subjected and that was passed with flying colors by the Armed Forces and the Venezuelan people in their determination to live in freedom, dignity, and democracy. Thank you very much. [applause]